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## February 12, 2013 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our February 12, 2013 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program.

What does this really mean?

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

The source for the vast majority of what is in the Handouts is the monthly Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Newsletter. From within this larger document I extract information on upcoming genealogy programs local to our area, important items from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Blog, as well as I summarize some key periodical articles of interest that I think are important to be aware of. The Handouts simply provide me with the opportunity to focus in on what I consider are important genealogical bits of information important to the researcher as well as to share my own personal thoughts on why it is of note.

You will also see a small redesign of the PDF Handout package. You will now see a Table of Contents on Page 1 listing what the following "handouts" are by topic. Within the Table of contents you can quickly access the handouts by using the hyperlinks and bookmarks that will get you quickly to your handout of interest. You will no longer have to scroll through the entire package of handouts to get to the one you want.

I also plan on use the "yellow highlight" tool within Word and highlight certain areas of these notes that I think are important to note. The visual highlighting will take your eyes to areas of importance to note. Please let me know if you think this OK or if it may be a distraction? I thought I would give it a try.

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

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

I will clearly identify my own comments when the handout is a combination of material that came from some other source such as Dick Eastman's blog as well as my own comments. I will indicate my comments in Italics, clearly marked so the reader can distinguish between the original verbiage and my own comments. If a handout item was completely created by me then you will see that noted at the top.

In this case, the entirety of the handout was created by me and will not be shown in Italics.

This program "Handout" information will then be uploaded to the Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Blog that is titled "Genealogy with Tony". This blog will be accessible from the library's main web site page at [www.schaumburglibrary.org](http://www.schaumburglibrary.org). Select "Local History and Genealogy" at the top of the page, then look for the icon on the Local History and Genealogy page that says "Tony's Genealogy Blog". Open the blog link and then look at the right hand sidebar of the blog and you will see the "Handouts" information. The direct web address for the blog I author is <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Here we go with the list of "handouts"!

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

I will continue to remind participants of our library’s new genealogy blog. You can access it through our library home page at [www.SchaumburgLibrary.org](http://www.SchaumburgLibrary.org) by scrolling across the top of the first page and look for the tab that says “Local History and Genealogy”. Click on that tab and look on the right side for our library genealogy blog on the right side that says “Tony’s Genealogy Blog”.

Or you can just go directly to the blog at:

<http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

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

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

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

Try to visit the blog frequently to see what is going on. Subscribe to the blog via RSS (Really Simple Syndication) and you will receive notices when a new post or comment has been made at the blog. Or, just click on the WordPress icon in the lower right part of your screen that simply states “Follow”. By clicking on the “Follow” link you will subscribe to the blog and will receive follow-up e-mail notices when I publish a new post.

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

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**Handout #2 – NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COUNCIL OF GENEALOGISTS ON MARCH 2, 2013**

**THE SOCIETY WILL BE MEETING ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH STARTING AT 10:00 AM AT THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SENIOR CENTER LOCATED AT 1801 WEST CENTRAL ROAD IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS. THERE IS A 30 MINUTE ROUND-TABLE HELP SESSION THAT STARTS AT 9:30 AM PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL PROGRAM.**

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists will take place on Saturday morning, March 2, 2013. The program for the morning is titled **“Polish Genealogy – Where To Start?”**. The speaker for the morning will be Steve Szabados.

So you think you may have Polish ancestry that you want to uncover but you are not sure how to get started. Do I start tracking ancestors in Polish records? Should I fly over to Poland and start asking around? I hope not yet! But where exactly should I start to get the most done in the best way possible? Let Steve provide you with your “jumping off” point to help you uncover your Polish ancestry.

Steve Szabados is a retired project manager with a Bachelor of Science degree and a MBA who started researching his ancestors in 2004. He has given numerous presentations to groups in Illinois and Wisconsin and wants to share his passion for Family History. Steve Szabados is a member of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, Illinois State Genealogical Society and also a genealogy volunteer at the Arlington Heights Library. His roots are Polish and Hungarian plus he has also had success researching Slovenian and Bohemian records.

Meetings are held at the Arlington Heights Senior Center at 1801 West Central Road in Arlington Heights. They begin at 10:00 AM with a Round-Table discussion/mingling time starting at 9:30 AM. They encourage people to bring their research problems, achievements or interesting tips to share with each other during the time prior to the program start. **The main portion of the meeting begins promptly at 10:00 AM.** Donations are always welcome! Coffee is available to attendees for a charge.

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

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

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**Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT REGULAR SOCIETY PROGRAM ON MARCH 20, 2013; ALL-DAY ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR THE SOCIETY TO OCCUR ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2013 IN ST. CHARLES, IL AT THE HILTON GARDEN**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, March 20, 2013. The program scheduled for that evening is **“Family Tree Tours: Travel Back To Your Roots (Germany, Ireland)”**. The speaker for the program will be Kathy Wurth.

This presentation is a primer for preparing for a Heritage tour to visit your ancestral hometowns in Germany or Ireland , whether on your own or with a group. We first discuss how to use U.S. records to find your ancestral hometown. We then will discuss pre-trip preparation and what you can expect from a FamilyTree Tour vacation.

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

Also be aware the society is having its Annual Conference on Saturday, February 23, 2013 at the Hilton Garden in St. Charles, Illinois. The Conference Program Title is “Discovering America’s Early Roots”. This is an all-day program. This is the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the DuPage County Genealogical Society to be held in its history. Walk-ins are welcome at the last minute. There is usually an un-discounted charge for the conference as a walk-in. You also may not be guaranteed a lunch but there are plenty of restaurants in the very nearby area if you were unable to obtain a lunch from the society. Take advantage of any pre-registration discounts before February 11, 2013 you can do with the material at the website and avoid the uncertainties of not getting a lunch if you walk-in unregistered.

Details for this special Annual Conference can be found at the society’s web page listed below. Just look for the link at the top of the first page you encounter that says “Conferences”. Click on that link and you will gain access to all of the information concerning this upcoming conference.

You may visit the society web page to find out further information about this program and other future programs the society has on their schedule at:

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

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**Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON FEBRUARY 16, 2013 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY**

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, February 16, 2013 at the Schaumburg Township District Library starting at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"Cemetery Sleuthing"**. The speaker for the program will be Kathy Kult.

Have you ever been "cemetery sleuthing?" Come along with Kathy as she shares tips for searching for your departed ancestors in cemeteries and effectively recording what you find. Find out what to take in your "cemetery toolkit" and learn all about cemetery etiquette and safety. Kathy will share information for when the best time is to capture gravestone photos, what to do (and not do) for those hard-to-photograph markers, and several ways to share what you find.

You may visit the organization web page to find out further information about this program and other future programs the society has on their schedule at:

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

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

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## Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON MARCH 12, 2013; BREAK OUT GROUPS; NO SPEAKERS

We will have another “break-out” session for our gathering in March 2013. Our previous attempts proved to be quite a good success. I would like us to build on those successes and afford those participants the opportunity to meet with those again or sample other groups.

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

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

I want to reconvene the following groups:

- Polish Researchers
- German Researchers
- Czech Researchers
- Irish Researchers
- Italian Researchers
- British Researchers
- Scandinavian Researchers
- Colonial Americans Researchers
- Sharing Your Printed Family Histories/How To

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

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

I would also encourage participants to bring their personal laptop or netbook to these sessions and tap into the internet via our WiFi network. I saw many researchers doing this at our last breakout session and they found it very productive to access internet information while being in one of the groups if they wanted to show something to someone else at the table.

Please remember that the group’s composition is based on the numbers that will participate. If only one person is present to participate in the Polish group, then we cannot have a Polish group that evening. I cannot guarantee there will be enough participants to form a group. In that case I would always recommend participating in another ethnic group of interest if that is also in your research interests or join me at the Beginner’s Group.

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

I look forward to our next "break-out" session in March 2013.

You may visit the library's web page at:

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

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

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

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## Handout #6 – IRISH NEWSPAPERS WILL BE IGNORED IN DICK EASTMAN'S BLOG

*The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated January 2, 2013.*

This newsletter often points to interesting articles available elsewhere on the web. I usually give a 2- or 3-sentence introduction, followed by a link to the article of interest. According to a coalition of Irish newspapers, if I provide a link to an Irish newspaper, I am a pirate.

The National Newspapers of Ireland has adopted a new policy. Any website which links to one of the 15 NNI member newspapers will have to pay a minimum of 300 Euros (\$395 US dollars), with the license fee going up if you post more links. See <http://goo.gl/K3Oj3> for the details.

Note that this is not a fee to post an excerpt or some punitive measure for the copying of an entire article. No, the NNI wants to charge for links alone. It doesn't apply just to newsletters or web sites, the NNI wants to charge the same fee to ANYONE who even posts a single link in a Twitter message or any other message in any public place on the Internet. That includes Facebook, all blogs, all web pages, and perhaps anyplace else online!

This is one of the most stupid ideas I have read in recent times. The National Newspapers of Ireland obviously has no idea how the web works and also has no concept of the amount of valuable publicity that links to their members' newspapers can provide.

Online news site [Slashdot](http://Slashdot) suggests this is an elaborate way to commit suicide.

Whatever the reasons, I will abide by this rule. I will no longer refer to any Irish newspaper web site until the National Newspapers of Ireland wakes up and rescinds this foolishness.

Posted by [Dick Eastman](#) on January 02, 2013 in [Legal affairs](#) | [Permalink](#)

### **Comments by Tony Kierna**

*Wow! Read the above article more than once. I had to!*

*It is really not directly about genealogy but I think it is important for us to be aware of how new developments often take unintended "left" turns while trying to do something that is just completely "out of the box". The above is one of those "out of the box" developments that just begs becoming aware of.*

*So there is actually movement out in the Irish newspaper business to somehow mandate that if someone wants to include a link in anything they write that would take a reader to an Irish newspaper site, that the writer must pay the Irish Newspaper Association \$395 for the privilege of **creating a link**. Read this again, a*

fee to be charged for creating a link to an Irish newspaper. Not necessarily creating a link to some full text article or something that is being pirated or done under the table. No, just a link to steer someone to an Irish newspaper!

In the world of writing and the Internet, usually if someone refers a reader to another site, it is usually thought that there is something of note to be read there. If it is something of note, then perhaps the original writer did something of note or it is worthwhile to read. The original writer, generally, might tip their hat and say "Thank You" for noting that something I wrote was good enough to be referred to by other readers.

That means that for a newspaper, new business might actually be going in their direction with the possibility of getting other new subscribers to the newspaper. In other words, the newspapers are getting potential customers sent their way yet the newspapers want to charge the person that sent them there \$395 for the privilege.

I know I am missing something in this process!

This is not about publishing newspaper owned material illegally and they are trying to recover that kind of money by instituting some kind of exorbitant fee.

So Dick Eastman plans on honoring the new process. He plans on making no references to anything related to Irish newspapers. That means that if an Irish newspaper wants to share a story about some new genealogical development, then you the reader will not hear it through Dick Eastman. In essence you may not hear it from anyone else via a link unless you hear it directly from an Irish newspaper yourself.

Pinch me if I am wrong, but don't most of us hear new pieces of news from others that we may then go dig deeper into it ourselves. Isn't that what you are doing right now reading this that I relate it to you!

I can't believe that this new policy will continue. I think someone just made some goofy mistake and did not intend what came out to of that nature.

So for now, I will see if there is any follow-up from Dick Eastman if he discovers anything new about this development.

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## Handout #7 – NEW AUDIO PODCASTS TO FEATURE TIPS ON NEW ENGLAND RESEARCH

*The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated January 21, 2013.*

MILLS, M.A. (January 21, 2013) – Professional genealogist and house historian, Marian Pierre-Louis has developed a new genealogy show in audio (podcast) format called *On-Site Research New England*. Shows will be broadcast bi-weekly through the On-site Research New England website (<http://www.ResearchNewEngland.com>) and will be made available through iTunes.

On-site Research New England is a podcast created to help all people do historical research in New England. Researchers might be genealogists, house historians, curators, collectors searching for the provenance of antiques, photo historians, authors and screen writers doing background research, freelance writers and many others.

Each podcast will contain an interview recorded on location at a New England archive, library, repository or society. The staff will provide overviews and tips for researching at their facility. To conduct successful on-site research is to "Know before you go!"

The first episode, now available online, features genealogist Rhonda McClure speaking about the Microtext Department at the New England Historic Genealogical Society. The second episode will feature the historical and genealogical resources of the Boston Public Library.

Tips will also be provided for researchers who can't get on-site themselves by providing a list of staff or consulting researchers who can be their on-site eyes and ears.

About Marian Pierre-Louis:

Marian Pierre-Louis is a professional genealogist and house historian who shares her love of New England history through her research, blogs and social media. She is the host of the internet radio show Fieldstone Common which broadcasts live every Thursday.

Posted by [Dick Eastman](#) on January 21, 2013 in [Podcasts](#) | [Permalink](#)

### Comments by Tony Kierna

*As you may be aware, I am a very big fan of podcasts and the knowledgeable information they convey.*

*I personally do not have any ancestry connected to New England. However, I did want to take a look at the site and offer some observations of what I discovered that*

may be of help to any of you that actually are involved in New England ancestral research. Visit the site at <http://www.ResearchNewEngland.com>.

For the first episode there is a simple introduction and description of what the listener will encounter when they listen to the podcast. **It was noted that the first episode was 30 minutes in duration.** That is a very nice number because it does not appear to be too overwhelming in length and yet it looks to be long enough to convey some good information.

**At the website they are also offering an e-mail reminder notice process to make you aware when a new episode is available.** **Episodes are planned to be created on a bi-weekly basis.** That may be an ambitious amount to create and produce onto the site. The podcast producer must have an initial schedule that will carry the new site forward as it interests new listeners that are doing research in the New England area.

**The site is set up in blog format.** The originator appears to be setting the blog with information to find on the right sidebar of the blog. Lists of recent posts, recent comments, an Archives and a set up for categories of the blogs is all present to allow you to get an idea of recent activity and to see within the categories whether there are some podcasts of interest to you about New England for certain categories.

**You can play the podcast at the site or even download for playing for yourself from where you saved it at a later time.**

**It appears that the host of the podcasts will be interviewing key personnel at a variety of New England archives, libraries, repositories and societies.** These people will be experts knowledgeable about the topic of the podcast. If you have New England ancestry these podcasts may make you aware of archives, libraries etc. in the area that may be key resources for you to advance your research. **In addition, the listener will be able to hear from an expert within that resource who will be able to provide even more detailed resource information about that topic.**

**The quality of the first podcast sounded very good.** The interviewer, Marian Pierre-Louis sounded very knowledgeable in her questioning of Rhonda McClure who speaks about the Microtext Department of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society. Unfortunately, for me, only because I do not have any New England ancestral research, I think my eyes were glazing over about the nitty-gritty details that were being provided on the types of records covered by the podcast. I can assure you that if are doing this kind of research, I think your ears will perk up higher than mine did!!

**The interviewer does provide a nice simple summary of what the podcast consists of, including links to other locations that may have been mentioned in the podcast.**

I would definitely encourage those of you that have New England ancestors to check out the site. I love podcasts. If you have never listened to a podcast, try this one especially if your research targets New England ancestry.

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## Handout #8 – SAVING MEMORIES FOREVER NOW AVAILABLE FOR ANDROID SYSTEM

*The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated January 16, 2013.*

In the August 8, 2012 newsletter, I described the launch of a new app for Apple iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch called Saving Memories Forever. (See my article at <http://goo.gl/UsdwG>.) Now the company has released a version for Android devices. The following announcement was written by Saving Memories Forever™: Now iPhones and Android Devices Can Be Used To Easily Record and Share Family History Through Audio Recordings



SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Jan. 15, 2013 –

Saving Memories Forever™ (SMF), has just launched its new Android app. The application expands upon the previously introduced iPhone app, making interviewing and preserving family stories through audio recordings even easier. The technology helps families build meaningful story archives they can share and manage through the SMF website, <http://www.SavingMemoriesForever.com>. Both apps are free.

Since the launch of the SMF smartphone based system in 2012, Saving Memories Forever has received many positive comments and reviews from parents and genealogists.

"Ever since they announced the iPhone app, I've been waiting for the Android version. I'm thrilled this technology is available because now I can grab my Android, snap a few photos, and then use my downloaded Saving Memories Forever app to capture my girls as they talk. While these are captured moments, we'll all enjoy listening to them again and again. Our relatives love it when I share these," said Sara, mother of two.

Stephanie Pitcher Fishman from The In-Depth Genealogist comments the family-based company is a pioneer in saving family stories. "Their unique – and easy to use – free iPhone and Android apps help people young and old record their stories for others. Their free and premium memberships have applications for genealogists and family historians, homeschooling families, parents, family reunions and more. Use their categorized questions (story prompts, really!) to help guide you through the adventures of your life."

Lisa A. Alzo, at Internet Genealogy, said SMF is a great way to preserve a relative's recordings in one secure location. "One of the biggest problems I had in the past was trying to remember where I stored all of my audio files from those interviews I did. With SMF, I can save my favorite clips or those I find most relevant to my

genealogy research and share them with the addition of an e-mail address to family members. It is really nice to be able to have the 'voices from the past' organized so nicely in one place, especially since so many of the people I've interviewed have now passed away — including my parents."

This new approach to sharing family history through audio recordings was created by Harvey and Jane Baker. The two saw a need to go beyond ancestry and the family tree to create an online portal where family members could tell their stories in their own voices to share and save for current and future generations.

This smartphone web-based system allows people to talk about the important things in their life, including happy, sad, and amusing memories. This combination of stories gives true insight into what a person was all about and is an invaluable oral tool for anyone interested in preserving family genealogy. It gives a grandchild or great-grandchild the chance to really know a deceased relative — far beyond facts and statistics.

#### ABOUT SAVING MEMORIES FOREVER

Saving Memories Forever™ provides a new online system to not only create and preserve family memories, but also build legacies through audio recordings. Each subscriber has a dedicated area on the site to upload and manage their recordings. Recordings on the SMF website are categorized, private, secure, and permission based. The basic package is free. Subscriptions with many additional features are offered at just \$3.99 per month. A new zipfile feature gives users the option of backing-up their stories at home. A how-to-video provides step-by-step instructions. For additional information visit <http://www.SavingMemoriesForever.com>.

#### **Comments by Tony Kierna**

*This is a great idea to have your smartphone make voice recordings and keep them all in one spot with this provider of the service. The service and app had previously been for the Apple iOS system. Now it is available for the Android system. The app is free to download. I actually did a quick check at the Apple App Store using my iPod Touch. This app had 9 reviews for the service and all 9 reviews had given the app the highest rating possible.*

*You can capture recordings of those relatives that may be up in age to save for yourself and others. You can make your own recordings of parts of your life for yourself and others to hear. The app also has built-in functionality to upload your recorded audio to Facebook.*

*There are free and premium memberships with the app.*

*The "free" service limits you to how many "storytellers" you can designate (6), how many audio files you can upload and how many times these stories can be listened to daily (5). The "free" registration can at least get you started. The premium membership that basically removes the limits of the "free" service will cost you \$3.99 per month. All of this is clearly explained at the website at <https://www.savingmemoriesforever.com/Free-vs-Fee/>.*

I decided to visit the actual website of the company because although I downloaded the app to my iPod Touch, I have not yet gone through the process of acceptance for the app so I cannot tell you of all of the details through the app. Visit the website to obtain complete information about the service. The app does not provide that much background information about the service. The app is really your "portable" extension for the service with your smartphone. That appears to be the norm as you want to go to the main web site for this.

The website for the company at <https://www.savingmemoriesforever.com/> does indicate that you can also use the service directly via your home computer and not via an app if you so choose. The web site also mentions that they have some nice informative videos of the service for you to see what the service is all about. You can see these videos via the following link at <https://www.savingmemoriesforever.com/How-It-Works/>. As with many services, you must register yourself with the service in order to use it. If you choose to use the service and want to interact with the service via your computer and not a smartphone, then the audio recordings you upload must be in MP3 format.

I will say that for the vast majority of us having audio sounds of our ancestors and relatives is probably the weakest part of our research. Granted, it would have been impossible to have any audio sounds of our ancestors before sound recordings were invented. However, we may have to view this today as a beginning point to capture that now and pass those recordings down our lives to our descendants. Perhaps in 100 years someone will actually be able to listen to your voice, something we cannot do for our ancestors 100 years ago from today. Audio files certainly take up far less computer space than video files. So having audio is not that bad to archive and upload.

Visit the main web site of the provider. There is great information and learning videos to help you assess what the service is all about. It does sound like a great idea. I sure wish I had the sounds of my grandparents, but alas that was not going to happen then. The possibilities are so much more practical for today's researchers to capture voices of our relatives today.

Consider this service to start capturing those memorable sounds today of our relatives.

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## Handout #9 – 10 COMMON GENEALOGY MISTAKES

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the January/February 2013, Volume 17, Number 3 issue of Family Chronicle.

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I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled "10 Common Genealogy Mistakes". The author of the article is Jacky Gamble. We often receive advice in our genealogical quest on what we "should" do. It is nice to also receive some insights on what we "should not" do as researchers. Here are the key points mentioned for genealogy research advice on what we should not in our research efforts:

- **Don't Neglect To Document Your Sources** – it may take you a few extra minutes, but do it while you are working on the material. You will then have a reference point to refer to if you revisit the data sometime in the distant future. Plus, the trail will be there when your material is picked up at some future point of time. **Resources add credibility to your research.**
- **Don't Believe Everything You See** – just because you see something published or online does not mean it is 100% accurate. There could be typos, transcription errors or misidentified resources. If a resource trail exists use it yourself as a starting point for verification.
- **Don't Limit Yourself To Just One Spelling** – for various reasons the spelling of your ancestor's name could have changed over time. Add in the illiteracy levels back then and any name written down once could be changed upon the next writing. Add in a 21<sup>st</sup> century dilemma of misspellings during transcription efforts to digitize and you can see that **you cannot assume the name you seek will always be spelled the way you think it should be!**
- **Keep A Research Log** – do you have time on your hands? Do you like revisiting the same research efforts over and over again because you did not remember the research on the subject you just did 3 months ago? **If you want to be efficient and effective in your research create a research log of what you have done.** If you are working on just a few individuals, maybe your memory will serve you. But when your research has now accomplished information for hundreds, don't trust your memory or you will be doing the same research over and over.
- **Don't Accept Family Legends As Fact** – we all want our ancestors to have had incredible stories of their lives that they passed-down. Sometimes that is true. **But many times the legends are just that, legends that have no basis in fact.** There may still be a kernel of truth to the overlying legend but over time the story has become distorted. And worse yet from a storytelling mode, the research you do may

ultimately put to rest the “legend” that had been passed down the generations as being just that.

- **Organize, Organize, Organize** – your initial research will be exciting for the few individuals you uncover. But over time, and rather quickly, the paper and research notes will start to accumulate. **Organize the data early on before it begins to overwhelm you. Consider computer software lineage programs for you to enter in your research data.** This also includes pictures, documents, videos, audio files etc. Consider using online family trees rather than a family tree that only exists on your computer. Consider file folders, binders and file cabinets. **Summarize your findings into various charts for getting a quick overview of your efforts.**
- **Start Small and Expand Later** – don’t do “shotgun” research by researching whatever comes to your mind. **Start with the line of one family member, more than likely a direct line ancestor.** Start within you and move backwards in time as your research unfolds. **Don’t make the jump to doing foreign country research until you have connected all of the dots for yourself and your ancestors in the United States.**
- **Don’t Become a Name and Date Collector** – you will start out with this key information but don’t just stay with that. **There are going to be wonderful stories about these ancestors.** Some of the information can be obtained from living cousins that may have those piece-parts. Some may be in newspapers of the time of the ancestors. Find any old diaries or letters from your ancestors. Those resources provide you with a real picture of the ancestor you are researching. **You can take all of this discovered deeper information and might even consider creating an ancestral biography.**
- **Don’t Forget Your Living Relatives** – the data you have collected from documents and databases is there today and will likely be there in the future. **But what about that 85 year old aunt of your? How much longer will she be here for you to ask her for those stories of her life?** Ask for their help. Give them the questions you are curious about in advance so they can think about it. Ask if you can visit them personally and videotape the time with them as they interact with you about those life stories.
- **Don’t Publicly Publish Information About Living People** – you may be excited that your living cousins provided you information about themselves for your developing family tree. But in your excitement, do not publish that information in your online family tree! At best show that information in a generic, non-identified manner **or better yet only publish material on those you officially know to be deceased.** I am sure you would want the same common courtesy shown to your information.

I think the author did a very good job of identifying common mistakes that researchers often fall into as they begin researching the family history. These can be attributable to just being uninformed or undisciplined with their research.

Sometimes, we may discover these mistakes later on. Then it may take far more time to correct. **So why not know now what the pitfalls are so they can be avoided.** This is a good article for anyone just starting their research effort or even for the veteran researcher for them to review their own processes.

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## Handout #10 – THE U.S. FEDERAL POPULATION SCHEDULES 1850 - 1940

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the January/February 2013, Volume 17, Number 3 issue of Family Chronicle.

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I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled "The U. S. Federal Population Schedules, 1850 – 1940". The author of the article is Jana Broglin. We have just experienced as researchers the recent release of the digitized and indexed 1940 U.S. Census. While our focus currently may be on researching that data, it is also a good time while in the "census mood" to perhaps re-visit and understand key developments of the evolution of the previous censuses from 1850 to 1940.

Within each of the census years from 1850 to 1940, the author made note of and highlighted the various changes we should be aware of when we are using these valuable resources:

- **1850 U.S. Census** – first time in census history that **ALL** family members were listed; dwelling and family number were provided; age, sex, color and place of birth was provided; identification if a person could read or write; identification if the person was a deaf-mute, blind, insane or an "idiotic"; identified if a person was a "fugitive" from the state; provided the real estate value; provided the occupation of those males over 15; **first census to use printed forms for the enumerators.** WOW! It sure looks like this was an incredible advancement in family information over the previous census data from 1790 to 1840!
- **1860 U. S. Census** – same info as the 1850 census but added the value of the personal estate; birthplace noted as being more specific; enumerator made three copies of the census, one for the local county clerk, one for the state and third copy to the federal census office.
- **1870 U. S. Census** – included the age of a child under one in increments of twelfths, e.g. 5/12; first time asked if father or mother was foreign born; asked if born or married within the year and the month it occurred; asked to identify those that attended school. This census is a good tool to look at the males of the right age that may have been in the Civil War and survived. Pursue military record information. Also if a male was of the right age to have been in the Civil War and is not listed in this 1870 Census, you may want to pursue information on the possibility the individual died in the Civil War.
- **1880 U. S. Census** – first time relationship to head of household shown; noted if the person enumerated was single, married, widowed or divorced; noted the occupation of the person and number of months

unemployed; first time to identify street name and number of house for urban areas.

- **1890 U. S. Census** – census for which only fragments of information exist due to the destruction of the vast body of census data from a fire/water damage in 1921; enumerator asked for the first time if the person was in the military in the Civil War and if Union or Confederate or a widow of a veteran; first time asked for race identification such as black, mulatto, Chinese, Indian (Native American); first time for mothers asking how many children and how many are alive; if foreign born, the number of years in the U.S. and if naturalized or in the process of being naturalized.
- **1900 U. S. Census** – asked date and month of birth of the individual; marital status and number of years married; if person attended school number of months in school; first census to identify census enumeration district and supervisor's district.
- **1910 U. S. Census** – asked occupation and the type of industry employed; number of weeks unemployed in 1909; if you were out of work on April 15, 1910; if you were a veteran of the Union or Confederate army or navy; it is noted that this census is one of the most difficult to read due to poor quality of originals and microfilming process. None of this data can be redone because originals have been destroyed.
- **1920 U. S. Census** – first time asked for the "Mother tongue" of the individual and also the year of immigration; if naturalized, what year of naturalization.
- **1930 U. S. Census** – asked if person was a veteran of the U. S. Military or Naval Forces, and if so, what war or expedition participated in by the individual; asked if the family had a radio.
- **1940 U. S. Census** – asked number of years in school completed; citizenship of the foreign-born; where did the individual reside on April 1, 1935; employment questions to those 14 and over; asked whether worked in private industry or non-emergency government work; at work on or assigned to public Emergency Work like the WPA, NYA or CCC; was the person seeking work or was the person already employed; number of hours worked during the week of March 24 to 30 1940; duration of unemployment in weeks; also had supplemental question for those whose names appeared on Lines 14, 29, 55 and 68 of the schedule; supplemental questions were about place of birth of the mother and father; mother tongue or native language; does the person have a Social Security number.

The author did a good job of highlighting the key "new" items the researcher should be aware of for any particular census between 1850 and 1940.<sup>K</sup> By researching your ancestors through as many sequential censuses as possible it becomes possible to really develop a deeper "story" of the life of that individual based on the responses to the various questions asked. The U. S. Census data for these years is a good

resource to really more full develop your ancestor over and above date of birth and other basic vital information you may be aware of.

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