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October 8, 2013 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our October 8, 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. 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 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 NOVEMBER 2, 2013

THE SOCIETY WILL BE MEETING ON THE 1ST 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 60 MINUTE ROUND-TABLE HELP SESSION THAT STARTS AT 9:00 AM PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL PROGRAM.

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists will take place on Saturday morning, November 2, 2013. The program for the morning is titled **"The Curious Case of the Disappearing Dude"**. The speaker for the morning will be Debra Mieszala, CG.

James McBride seemingly vanished after coming of age. This case study presents how multiple versions of obituaries and other records helped uncover a name change, discover a famous James, and identify what became of his kin.

Debra specializes in forensic genealogy for 20th century research, and the Midwest. She does genealogical research for the military to locate relatives of service members missing in past wars, and formerly did adoption-related research as a Confidential Intermediary in Illinois. A national-level lecturer and author, she has taught at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy and the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research. Debbie's work has been published in NGS Magazine and The Digital Genealogist. She is a trustee of the Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG). She also holds a certificate in paralegal studies.

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 9:00 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

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**Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT
REGULAR SOCIETY PROGRAM ON OCTOBER 16, 2013**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, October 16, 2013. The program scheduled for that evening is **“Victorian Mourning Customs - Lifting the Veil off Morbid Genealogical Treasures”**. The speaker for the program will be Debra Dudek.

Victorian Mourning Customs- Lifting the Veil off Morbid Genealogical Treasures gives attendees a glimpse into the customs and rituals of death in Victorian Britain and North America. Genealogists can thank the Victorians for the 'cult of mourning' which generated a fantastic assortment of keepsakes, mementos, and paperwork. Discover how these materials and the cultural attitudes toward grief can be researched with the help of modern tools and new resources.

This meeting will take place at the Wheaton Public Library, Lower Level. The address of the library is at 225 N. Cross St. in Wheaton, IL. The meeting room opens at 6:30 PM. Refreshments are available at that time. The society conducts business at 7 PM, the speaker will start by 7:30 PM and the program will conclude by 8:30 PM.

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.dcgs.org

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON OCTOBER 19, 2013 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, October 19, 2013 at the Schahumburg Township District Library starting at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"Paths to the Past – CAGGNI Goes on TV"**. The speakers for the program will be Mary Hoyer and Michelle Wilson.

We may not yet feature the big stars or the \$\$\$\$ budget of *WDYTYA*, but we do have our own new two-episode series of videos, "Paths to the Past", which will be premiering LIVE at CAGGNI.

Stories from two CAGGNI members' ancestral past, some featuring historical persons and events, will be presented as movie-style videos with brief intermissions discussing the genealogical findings and "how it was made" in more detail. Don't miss this premiere event, and look also for the workshop tie-in "Digital Storytelling", to be held the previous Saturday.

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

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

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**Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT
GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON NOVEMBER 12, 2013**

Our program for November 12, 2013 is titled "Compiling Your Medical Family Tree". The speaker will be Marsha Peterson-Maass.

This lecture provides a basic understanding of what's crucial in compiling a Medical Family Tree chart and Predisposition Results Sheet. We'll also explore both traditional genealogical research methods to find family health records along with what today's medical DNA test results can offer. Genealogists are often amazed to discover that they might already possess many records that yield this family medical information.

Marsha got her start in genealogy during her junior year of high school when a history class required a paper on family history . . . it was then that her paternal grandmother dubbed her the "Family Genealogist." Grandma gave her a box of 19th Century family photos plus a handwritten family history detailing how in 1770 her original Sisler immigrant ancestor was contracted from Germany to teach the school children of Boston. (She got an "A" on the paper.) As a senior in high school, Marsha entered a family history project in the annual State of Illinois High School History competition and tied with one other person for State Champion. She also received a DAR scholarship that year.

Marsha's first formal training in genealogy was at the Newberry Library-Chicago, in the beginner's class that she now teaches called "Fundamentals of Genealogy: Basics for Everyone" (with accompanying textbook that she wrote). This is a 13-hour class that Newberry offers for three consecutive Saturdays every March, schedules at www.newberry.org/adult-education-seminars.

Her own U.S. genealogical journey includes discovering direct ancestors who were part of the Mayflower passage in 1620, the 17th Century Old Dominion plantation indenture system, the Revolutionary War, the Pennsylvania Deutsch settlements, the War of 1812, the early Midwest pioneer migration, the California Gold Rush, the Civil War, and the late 19th Century wave of Swedish immigration to the U.S., and in 2012 a once-MIA World War II cousin's remains repatriated to Illinois.

You may visit the library's web page at:

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 – GERMAN GENEALOGY GROUP HAS A NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated September 2, 2013.

The German Genealogy Group has not only moved, but also has significantly improved the organization's web site. One major change is the capability to submit corrections to their many databases.

According an email message received from Bob Vornlocker, "The highlight though is access to recently created indices to Most Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, the most important German ethnic church in New York City. With the capability to search using wildcards and only two letters - a godsend given the difficulty of transcribing old records, often poorly written and difficult to read - this is a treasure trove for all New York, particularly Brooklyn, Catholics. I have already located 2 children, born in the 1850's, who never made it to a census and the first marriage of my great grandfather; the wife died pregnant at 18 years old."

You can find the new German Genealogy Group site at

<http://www.germangenealogygroup.com/>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

First and foremost, the above notice from Dick Eastman pertains to the German Genealogy Group in New York City. I did want to mention this site because it does look impressive and has other resources and links mentioned at the site to help both the general German genealogy researcher as well as the specific New York City German genealogy researcher.

If you are researching German ancestors that had a connection to the New York City area then this is a site to become familiar with. There are some good databases to access for New York City Germanic genealogy information.

Some of the database resources offered by the society are:

- Alien Statements
- Births
- Brides, Grooms, Marriages
- Cemetery Records
- Church Records
- Crematory
- Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)
- Deaths
- German Enemy Aliens
- GGG Surname Database
- Gottschee Surnames
- Naturalizations
- New York City and Long Island

- Veterans
- Yearbooks

There is also a "Members Only" section of the website. You need to be a member of the society to access whatever material is contained in that area.

You can also find a sample newsletter for the society. Other resources and links to Germanic oriented material are also contained at the site.

Remember, this site is more focused on New York City Germanic research. There may still be material here that can help you with your overall Germanic research.

It is probably well-worth taking a look at the site if you are doing any Germanic research just to see if there is something that can help your efforts if you do not have a New York City connection to your Germanic ancestors.

Seeing this site made me want to take a look at what other available Germanic genealogy website resources may exist. I did find some general links at RootsWeb. Take a look at the following link that will get you to a series of German oriented web material that may also help you with any of your Germanic research. You can find this material at:

<http://www.germanroots.com/germanlinks.html>

It is well-worth taking a look at the more general information also to see if any of the material may be new to you that can further your research.

I hope the above information gives you some further insight into Germanic resources available to you via the websites.

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Handout #7 – NO BIRTH OR DEATH CERTIFICATES BEING ISSUED BY THE CITY OF DETROIT BECAUSE IT HAS NO PAPER

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated August 29, 2013.

A Detroit funeral home director sent out a text message to his colleagues last month saying, "FYI, city of Detroit can't process death certificates because they have no paper and don't have money to buy any."

The Detroit News reported Thursday the problem cropped up July 23, five days into the bankruptcy, when a paper vender demanded cash payment for the special embossed paper rather than continue to let the city operate on credit.

Even worse, the city's vital records department will close October 1. Wayne County will assume responsibility for issuing birth and death certificates.

"Employees (at the vital records department) were sitting outside because they didn't have anything to do," says the Rev. Gleo Wade, Stinson Funeral Home director, who drove to the vital records department that day to see what was going on. "I've never seen the employees just sitting outside like that before." The assumption is that these employees are still being paid their full salaries, even though the city cannot afford a modest payment for printer paper.

You can read more in an article by Laura Berman published in the Detroit News at <http://goo.gl/qHGUhm> as well as in an unsigned UPI article at <http://goo.gl/s1t2Ht>.

My thanks to newsletter reader Pam Holland for telling me about this story.

Comments by Tony Kierna

What a sad state of affairs for the city of Detroit. From a genealogical point, this does not appear to present the researcher with a dire problem yet. Most of our research is looking for "genealogical" copies of vital records. Those are often printed on normal copy paper and not the special, official-looking heavier paper that will take an embossed seal to signify authenticity.

But you can see from the above there appears to be a transfer of responsibility from the city of Detroit to the county of Wayne in Michigan. It sounds like there could be some initial chaos lurking on the horizon regarding where researchers will be accessing these records, although one generally deals with the county level for these records.

Detroit may just be the tip of the iceberg as more and more cities, municipalities, towns etc. find themselves in declining financial straits that could lead to bankruptcies for them also like the filing by Detroit that just recently took place. There just may be more disruptions in the future that could affect genealogists in their quest to obtain vital records from a variety of locations.

This little news blurb just caught my eye in which a major city has no money to even buy the special paper that is needed for them to create valuable and important vital records! How sad is that?

I can only hope that your own personal research does not connect to Detroit while they are going through these hard times. Your quest in obtaining vital records copies in the future may take on a more bureaucratic discovery while you try to connect to the proper authority that can issue to you copies of vital record material you seek.

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Handout #8 – FAMILYSEARCH DETAILS COMMON MISTAKES MADE WITH FAMILY TREE DATA

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated September 11, 2013.

Kristi Etherington published an article in the FamilySearch Blog that explains a lot about the use of the relatively new FamilySearch Family Tree. She writes (in part):

FamilySearch Family Tree has been available to everyone since March 2013. Since then, there have been new features and enhancements. During this time, we have discovered some concerns related to living records and some features like delete person or merging records which we want to focus on in this article.

Living vs. Deceased records

In general, there are two rules regarding the Family Tree records: 1) Everyone can see and edit deceased records and 2) Only the original contributor can see a living record due to privacy rules. Yes, there are exceptions to both of these but for this article, we are going to focus on when a living person is accidentally marked as deceased.

The article then goes on at some length, giving a great insight of how to enter and/or correct records in the database. If you use the FamilySearch Family Tree, I would suggest you want to read Kristi Etherington's article at

<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/common-mistakes-family-tree-data/>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

As the article notes the functionality of uploading family trees to FamilySearch has been in existence for a limited time, especially in comparison to such functionality that existed with other major genealogy sites. Each site where family trees can be uploaded operates under their own guidelines and rules. It is certainly understandable that there are growing pains with the advent of any new system. FamilySearch is not immune from those pains.

*Please remember, that in order to upload any information to FamilySearch Family Trees, you will need to be registered with them as a user. You will need to be registered also just to **VIEW** this data. Once registered, you can upload your material. Registration with them also allows you to view material online that is unavailable to non-registered visitors. Being registered also allows you to become an indexer transcribing material that FamilySearch is putting online.*

If you are uploading material to FamilySearch, you may already be aware of what rules you are operating under to get your material uploaded and functional in a correct manner. I would definitely connect to the above link that will get you to a blog post that conveys a good amount of information on the "mistakes" that FamilySearch is seeing occur with frequency.

In my general looking about the Internet I did come across a nice online PDF guide put together by FamilySearch that really gives great deal to the process of how you go about uploading family tree material and what you can do with it over time to keep it accurate. Others that are registered with FamilySearch can also make changes to your material in a collaborative manner. The paper trail exists for seeing any changes that occur to material you may have uploaded.

Here is the link to the 168 page online guide that is dated May 2013 to help you understand the entire process of uploading family tree data to FamilySearch:

<http://broadcast.lids.org/eLearning/fhd/Community/en/FamilySearch/FamilyTree/pdf/familyTreeUserGuide.pdf>

Perusing this document before you ever upload any data is also very good because it will give you an idea of the "nuts and bolts" of the process you will not see if you just start uploading via the templates that exist.

I did see a couple of "training" videos on Family Tree at YouTube. Here are the links for these learning tools to better help you use the Family Tree capability at FamilySearch. The first link is a 12 minute video. The 2nd link will get you to a series of 7 videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0WyKsJzaNBE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqfN-Fr7VEI&list=PLF6C9D7BA99D93CE9>

The blog post link in the above Dick Eastman news item does mention one good item we should all be aware of because it can apply to our own lineage databases. You may have a person identified in your own database or in the FamilySearch online tree that is not associated with the correct family as you know it. Do not necessarily think you have to "delete" the person from either database. Rather think of "re-linking" the person to the proper family. All of the information in these databases links person A to person B etc. If you delete the person, you will have to re-enter the data under the correct family association. If you re-link the person, you just point the person to the correct family and save yourself re-entering the data.

I also like the fact that FamilySearch only allows you the uploader to see actual living persons entered in the database. In general, you do not want to ever upload anyone that is "living" with any copious amounts of information about them. Sometimes the lineage databases are smart enough to know that if you upload someone that does not have a death date, then the upload may just show the person in an unnamed manner as "Living" thus not allowing anyone to gather information about that living person that they should not access.

You simply have to be careful in general and know what you are doing regarding the uploading of information for anyone that is still living. The safest way is simply to not upload that person. At least FamilySearch only allows you the uploader to see this data and not the general public.

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Handout #9 – “PRESERVING WORLD WAR I MEMORIES ONLINE”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the August/September 2013, Volume 8, Number 3 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that a good article in this issue that was full of some good resource is the one titled “Preserving WW I Memories Online”. The author of the article is Smiljka Kitanovic.

The author noted that she was aware that her great-grandfather fought for the Serbian Army during World War I. More importantly, she knew that her great-grandfather kept a diary of his life during the horrors of his involvement in activities during World War I.

The great-grandfather survived the war as did his diary. For 40 years the diary was in the hands of the family stored away with no one showing any particular interest as to what the contents of the diary contained. In the 1960s the descendants of the great-grandfather of the author held onto the diary as they emigrated to the United States. But like so many sad stories the diary was discarded during cleaning. The contents of the diary are unknown and no longer available to be made. Again, a lost family treasure.

Many of us may be in the same situation. An ancestor may have fought in World War I. There may be no diary but that should not stop the genealogical researcher from uncovering information about what life for World War I military personnel may have been like. The author provides a wealth of online resources that can be used to know more about World War I. You may even have that treasure of a diary but what can you do with it so it does not become another lost piece of history shared with no one.

Some sites mentioned by the author related to World War I history where photos and diaries can be discovered are:

Michael Duffy’s Website on World War I @
www.firstworldwar.com

Brigham Young University Library @
www.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Diaries_Memorials_Personal_Reminiscences

Allied Forces and Central Powers diaries @
www.war-diary.com/worldwar1.htm

Online War Diaries for the Canadian Expeditionary Force Units @
www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/020152_e.html

British, Dominion, Indian and Colonial Army Units Diaries @

www.greatwar.co.uk/research/military-records/british-army-war-diary.htm

Australian Imperial Force Units Diaries @
www.awm.gov.au/collection/records/awm4

If you are lucky to have a World War I diary from an ancestor, or if you have some World War I memorabilia from an ancestor that you would like to share online, the author notes you should always read thoroughly from the site you choose what the terms and conditions are for use of your material. Provide memorabilia with your eyes open and a clear understanding of how the material could be used by the site in a manner you may not expect.

Sites mentioned by the author for sharing material you have are:

Europeana 1914-1918 @
www.europeana-collections-1914-1918.eu

American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) Doughboy Center @
www.worldwar1.com/dbc

Canadian Letters and Images Project @
www.canadianletters.ca/contribution.php

You may know an ancestor fought in World War I but you have no mementoes, memorabilia, letters, diaries or anything like that personally connecting an ancestor directly to the war. When you do not have the personal items, you can still reconstruct the life of an ancestor during the war by tapping into these other resources online. Your ancestor may have experienced exactly what other military personal did for which memorabilia exists and is now online.

It is hard to imagine that the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I will take place in 2014. Perhaps you might want to focus on your World War I ancestor during next year and see what you can discover about that ancestor relating to his military exploits in World War I. Next year, 2014, will certainly be a special year.

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Handout #10 – “FIVE TIPS TO STARTING RESEARCH IN A NEW LOCALE”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the July to September 2013, Volume 39, Number 3 issue of NGS Magazine.

A good article in this issue is one titled “Five Tips for Starting Research in a New Locale”. The author of this article is J. H. Fonkert, CG.

It is not uncommon that even during our early research efforts we discover new facts that lead our research to a new geographic area. My own research may have started out with what I knew – that my immediate ancestors were living in Chicago in Cook County, IL. So initially I was discovering information about facts related to Chicago and where I might find further documents related to my ancestors. Soon, those discoveries noted that an ancestor may have been born in a certain location in Poland. Or another ancestor appears to have married a woman who was born in Milwaukee, WI. You can see that it does not take much to point you to other geographic location, locations for which you will need to become familiar.

The author pointed out 5 important tips for you to advance your research efforts when trying to uncover information in unfamiliar territory. Here are the things to consider:

- **Know the Geography** – get a map and find the broadest view of your new area of interest. Consider using the research book **Red Book** which is a prime resource in genealogical research. You can find some nice summary information of United States locales. Consider using a gazetteer for any obscure places in your research such as Geographic Name Information System (GNIS) at <http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic>.
- **Learn the History** – try tapping into the local historical society to gain further insights into the history of the area as well as names of researchers today that can be a resource to you. Look for a published history, especially a county history in the United States. Don't overlook regional or state-level histories that may incorporate your area.
- **Determine What Government Kept the Records** – jurisdictions and geographical boundaries may have changed over time requiring you to know under where the records are located. County boundaries may have changed much over time. A great resource to help you understand these changes is the **Atlas of Historical County Boundaries** in print format as well as online at <http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp>.
- **Discover the Records** – do a place name search in the Family History Library Catalog at <https://familysearch.org/catalog-search>. See what this organization has in their possession about your locale of interest.

Look at the USGenWeb site for the locale at <http://www.usgenweb.org>. Consider visiting the courthouse in the area of interest because many of the records you seek are not online or in microfilm format, but only exist within the county courthouse.

- **Find Other Researchers** – look for local researchers in the area of interest to you. Many local genealogy societies may do volunteer work being your eyes and feet on the ground in the area you are not. Consider hiring a professional genealogist that may have specialized knowledge about the area of interest to you. You can find professionals at the Association of Professional Genealogists at www.apgen.org, Board for Certification of Genealogists at www.bccgcertification.org, International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists at <http://www.icapgen.org>.

The author re-emphasizes the following resources to consider as primary resources when beginning research in new geographic areas:

- The **Red Book** includes overviews of history and records for each state.
- The FamilySearch Wiki at www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page offers articles on states, counties, towns and regions.
- The National Genealogical Society offers a **Research in the States series** and has published state-level guides for nineteen states. The following states are noted as having an NGS state-level guide:
 - Arkansas
 - Colorado
 - Georgia
 - Illinois
 - Indiana
 - Kentucky
 - Maryland
 - Michigan
 - Missouri
 - New Jersey
 - New York - **On sale beginning 8 May 2013**
 - North Carolina
 - Ohio
 - Oregon
 - Pennsylvania
 - South Carolina
 - Tennessee
 - Virginia
 - West Virginia

Don't be befuddled when researching unfamiliar locations. Use the above tips provided by the author to get you acclimated to new geographic quickly so you don't lose a beat in doing research in these unfamiliar areas.

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