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December 10, 2013 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our December 10, 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 JANUARY 4, 2014

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, January 4, 2014. The program for the morning is titled **"Space-Time for Family Historians: Timewarps and Curved Space Aren't Just for Physicists"**. The speaker for the morning will be **Dr. Daniel Hubbard**.

Dr. Daniel Hubbard has been seriously researching his family history since he was 11 years old. He is a former particle physicist who lived in France and Sweden for 20 years before returning to Libertyville with his family. He is now a full-time professional genealogist, book designer and writer. He is the owner of Personal Past (www.thePersonalPast.com) with research concentrating on American, Canadian and Swedish records. He is President of the Lake County Genealogical Society and a member of the Nordic Family Genealogy Advisory Board at the Swedish-American Museum in Chicago.

Dan will present an entertaining look at how the times and places we read about and research are not always what they seem. Decoding dates, comprehending calendars and understanding the time on your ancestor's pocket watch are not as easy as they seem. What time they meant depends on where they were.

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:

www.NWSCG.com

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**Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT
REGULAR SOCIETY PROGRAM ON JANUARY 15, 2014**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, January 15, 2014. The program scheduled for that evening is **“Stories of the Lost”**. The speaker for the program will be **Jennifer Holik**.

We will explore the records available to tell the stories of those who lost something due to the war, never returned from war or returned, but didn't fully return. Each of them has a story that needs to be told.

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 JANUARY 18, 2014 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, January 18, 2014 at the Schaumburg Township District Library starting at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"French Genealogy Is Easy – Merci Napoleon!"**. The speaker will be Jacquie Schattner.

In the late 1700's, Napoleon's new laws created changes that help make today's French genealogy research easier. Curious to find out why? You will not only learn that but also about websites both French and American which will help locate your family in the countries where Napoleon ruled (France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherland and surrounding areas). Links to over 30 web sites. Document translations, French genealogical terms, and other aids will be presented. Come join us! *Bienvenue!*

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 JANUARY 14, 2014

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, January 14, 2014 at 7:30 PM.

The topic for the program is "An Archivist's Notebook: Who Will Look At Your Genealogical Collections?"

Our speaker for the program will be Laura Cosgrove Lorenzana.

Laura will explain how the components of an Archivist's job can be applied to how genealogists care for and manage their own collections. Laura truly believes it's up to us as genealogists to begin to take responsibility for preserving what we can before it disappears forever.

Laura Cosgrove Lorenzana is a consulting Archivist and Genealogist currently working in an Archives located in the heart of Kane County. With expertise in both Archives (7 yrs) and Genealogy (15+ yrs) Laura hopes to not only assist in tracing family histories, but in educating how best to ensure the documents, photographs and other supporting materials are organized, arranged and described so they are easy to find and ready to pass to the next generation or a repository for perpetual care.

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 – GOOGLE STREET VIEW IS MAPPING ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated October 27, 2013.



Arlington National Cemetery is one of the most famous US cemeteries -- it's where John F. Kennedy, William Howard Taft, and more than 400,000 veterans have been laid to rest. Now, Google is setting out to map this massive burial ground, according to The Washington Post.

Using the Street View Trekker backpack, which is equipped with a 15-lens camera system that pops out of the top of the wearable pack and constantly records images, Google employees are walking the paths of the cemetery collecting images.

Details may be found in an article by Cecilia Kang in the Washington Post at <http://goo.gl/tBvG9m>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

At first I was excited to think that perhaps the project encompasses Google snapping pictures of the tombstones, one by one, thus allowing us to be able to look at each one and perhaps find some of our ancestors gravesites via this method. But alas, that does not seem to be the real end result of this Google street view endeavor. Instead it does seem like it will create a visual of walking the grounds of the cemetery and feeling like you are actually there. Yes, it may be able to capture images of the headstones within the viewing range of the "walker" walking the grounds with a backpack that includes an elevated camera for image capture. But that is not the actual creation of "street view".

The article noted in the Dick Eastman post is worth a read. It does clearly indicate individual headstones are not being captured primarily but may be captured secondarily.

But think of the possibilities! Perhaps Google could use the same technical methodology but instead actually walk cemeteries with the cameras actually pointed downwards to capture gravestone images, especially those that are at ground level. In Arlington, the gravestones are all vertical and visible somewhat from a distance. Wouldn't that be a great project for Google to walk the cemeteries of our ancestors capturing headstone or monument images for us to be able to search online.

FindAGrave, BillionGraves, etc. are websites where cemetery gravestone images can be uploaded for the genealogical community to access for research. But not all of

what is voluntarily captured for uploading to FindAGrave and BillionGraves includes photos of monuments or tombstones. Often times just the headstone information is transcribed and becomes available for searching at the sites. Imagine a Google Street Mapping process that captures the images of each and every gravestone and monument! WOW! Wouldn't that be nice?

So do not think Google's effort at Arlington National Cemetery will give you images of each gravesite. No. You will just experience a walking view of Arlington and maybe you will see gravestones you can read as a secondary result of the street view creation process.

The article does indicate that Arlington National Cemetery does have an online process for grave location and searching. You can find that at:

<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/GravesiteLocator/GravesiteLocator.aspx>

The site above has some great search capabilities. It also presents an aerial view of the grave locations. You can also see both the front and backside of the gravestone for the individual. Check it out.

But who knows what the future possibility could be with the Google technology to capture the gravesites of our ancestors, cemetery after cemetery after cemetery! You can get a taste of that from FindAGrave today, but on a hit-or-miss basis. I have uploaded about 35 gravestone images to FindAGrave in a cemetery that has over 200,000 grave sites. Imagine if Google could do all 200,000 with their photographic capabilities!

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Handout #7 – NEW UPDATES TO THE ONLINE FAMILY HISTORY CATALOG AT FAMILYSEARCH

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated October 31, 2013.



The FamilySearch Blog has announced a new, online Family History Library Catalog that has several features that users have been waiting for. These changes should help make it easier to use the catalog and help searches be more productive.

All the details are described at <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/updates-family-history-library-catalog/>.

Posted by [Dick Eastman](#) on October 31, 2013 in [Online Sites](#) | [Permalink](#)

Comments by Tony Kierna

Using the online catalog at FamilySearch is a must for any genealogical researcher. It is a way to determine if there is any item in their microfilm collection that can be of assistance in your research. Remember, everything does not exist within the databases of Ancestry.com! You will have to research "out of the box" using microfilms and other LDS material. You can get to the FamilySearch catalog at:

<https://familysearch.org/catalog-search>

I would recommend reading through the information provided by FamilySearch on the updates to the catalog searching process. I will say that there are many instances of "updates" to the new catalog that simply state that the function existed in the "old" catalog search methodology that is being re-incorporated into the "new" catalog. OUCH! I guess the old adage applies, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it". Apparently, FamilySearch tried to fix things that were not broken and now find they are re-instating the old capabilities.

One nice feature is that your search term will be expanded to search also within subtitles for the item. Previously, it only searched the title. So now you have a better chance to get some results that previously you would not have been presented with any hits.

When you look at the above link in the Eastman post, make sure you scroll down the list of updated features to the catalog searching process. FamilySearch blog readers are some really sharp people! I enjoy to read the comments that many of them have left about asking FamilySearch for some other useful methods to not only search the catalog but also to be presented with even more views of information related to the catalog entry.

I know we are all waiting for the day when we search the catalog and not only find a catalog entry, but maybe someday, we will be able to see our ancestor's information in the catalog entry! Don't hold your breath for that kind of capability!

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Handout #8 – MOCAVO.COM ANNOUNCES 30,000 NEW DATABASES AND NEW EXCLUSIVE FEATURES

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated November 15, 2013.

The following announcement was written by the folks at Mocavo.com:



Today we celebrate just one month since we announced our [Free Forever](#) mission. We've put more than 30,000 new databases online in just 30 days. Our total database count has quickly [zoomed to over 138,000](#) and we've got so much more planned.

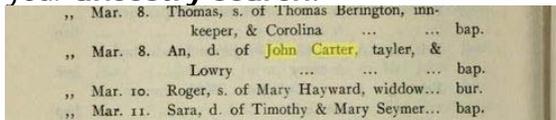
Introducing Search Sliders for Mocavo Gold Members

Search Sliders enable you to customize our search algorithms to better find the information you seek. There are two sliders we're announcing today, but there are more in the works. The first slider, called Freshness, allows you to filter your results to only items added to Mocavo in the past year, 6 months, 3 months, month, week, and day. This is great, if you want to focus your search on only recently-added content. The second slider, called Keyword Appearance, allows you to limit your search to just titles or just content. A title-only search might be good to try if you want more direct hits for your name. A content-only search is great, if you think your search will appear deep inside the content - and maybe the titles are throwing that off a bit. We have 3 more sliders that we're working on that we'll announce in the next few weeks.



Improved Search Result Previews

When you search on Mocavo, book results return a small search result preview with your search terms highlighted. Sometimes, we found that it was zooming in on the wrong areas (if you searched for John Carter, it would zoom in on another Carter, even though John Carter did appear somewhere else on the page). We've greatly improved the algorithms that decide where to zoom in. We hope this will speed up your **ancestry search!**



Special Announcement on November 20th

You heard it here first. On November 20th, we've got a very special announcement that we believe will delight genealogists everywhere. We're secretly cooking up some fascinating new stuff for our users, and we're almost ready to reveal it. Stay tuned!

Many of you have signed up for Mocavo Gold in support of our cause, and [enjoy searching 138,664 databases at the same time](#). As always, Mocavo Basic users can search these databases individually for free. Mocavo Gold offers you automated searching, the ability to run global searches across all of our databases, and a number of other great features.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Mocavo.com is a website search engine that all genealogy researchers should at least be aware of. The core of its functionality is that it incorporates only genealogical oriented databases into its search engine. This means that when you use it all of your results should be related to genealogy. You won't be getting all kinds of extraneous results from non-genealogical databases in its results lists.

The site offers multiple plans you can register for to get meaningful results. (Basic, Silver or Gold) If you do not register, you can still search the material in the over 130,000 databases. The site does allow you to look at your results on a database by database process. If you saw a hit in the results list, you can note where it was found in the document and then browse that item within that database. You can then move to the page where the result list noted you would find your "hit". So you can find the details but on a one-by-one basis. It is a little bit of work to do it in this manner if you are unregistered but at least you can look at the details if you choose.

Here is what the site says about signing up for a "free" account and what you will get for it:

"Yes, we do require you to sign up for at least a Mocavo Basic account (access to free genealogy search) in order to use Mocavo Search. Signing up for a Mocavo Basic (Free) or Mocavo Gold (subscription fee) account allows you to create a profile where you can upload family trees and family history documents and photos as well as connect with other members, get help from Mocavo Support, and get emails on genealogy tips and Mocavo updates."

The site also offers "premium" subscriptions that will cost you \$80 per year. (As I visited the site, it appeared you can get an immediate discount for the "gold" membership that could reduce that cost by 30%). They refer to it as their "gold" membership. Again, from the site, here is what they say in describing what you get for this service:

"Take your research to the next level with Mocavo Gold advanced and automated features. You will have access to the following exclusive features:

- *Search Our Entire Database from One Location*
- *Find Ancestors Faster with Advanced Search Fields*
- *New Discoveries Automatically Sent via Email*
- *See Every Detail with High Definition Documents*
- *Preserve Your Story with Free Scanning*
- *Review Your Searches with Browsing History*

- Share Research with Document Sharing
- Live Fireside Chats with Professional Genealogists
- 60% Off Family Tree Magazine
- 50% Off RootsMagic Software
- 20% Off GenealogyWallCharts.com

From the website itself they have an FAQ that explains the difference between the “free” and the “premium” services Mocavo offers. Here is how that difference is explained:

Our Plans

Mocavo Basic: Browse all of our datasets and search any of them individually as often as you like, free of charge, forever. Create a Mocavo Basic Account Today.

Mocavo Silver: Requires a subscription fee. With Mocavo Silver, you will be able to search all of our datasets conveniently from one location. Create a Mocavo Silver Account Today!

Mocavo Gold: Requires a subscription fee. With Mocavo Gold you can **search all of our datasets** conveniently from one location, **receive automated email alerts** when we discover new connections to your tree, send us our photos and books for **free scanning, backup your family tree**, save your research with **browsing history** improve your research skills through live webcasts with our Chief Genealogist, and get **over \$80 in savings** through our partners. Learn more about these features under the “Mocavo Gold Subscription” heading. Create a Mocavo Gold Account Today!

Over the last few months there has been a stirring of activity with Mocavo.com that has included a rapid expansion of the number of databases they include for you to search. The “free” choice and the “premium” choices seem meaningful. You have plenty of choices. If you have been an avid researcher already using other resources, do not expect to find all “newly discovered” data on an ancestor search. When I looked for Kierna” ancestors at the site, most of the presented material was from sources I was already aware of. But to be honest, I also discovered the mention of a Kierna descendant from a 1987 Antioch, IL digitized newspaper that was included in the Mocavo databases. So while much of the material is familiar, I instantly saw a “new” item of discovery found nowhere else!

Mocavo.com is a site worthy of your consideration, not only for the searching capability but also for all of the other “benefits” you can use with “premium” membership.

Check it out!

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Handout #9 – “FORWARDING ADDRESSES FROM THE PAST”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the November/December 2013, Volume 18, Number 2 issue of Family Chronicle.

I thought that a very fascinating article in this issue is titled “Forwarding Addresses from the Past”. The author of the article is David A. Norris. The author provides a fascinating history of how we got to our current system of street addresses for the basic homes we live in today. We probably all make the assumption that the way it is today with our street address is the way it has always been for such a basic means of identification. The author certainly notes that mail delivery to residences used to be completely different 150 years ago!

Knowing where our ancestors lived seems to be one of those “got to have” facts in genealogical research. The author notes that we should at least researching those infamous old documents in the cardboard boxes to see if we might find saved mailing envelopes that can be used to extrapolate clues for locations of both recipient and sender.

Here are some interesting historical facts relating to addresses and mailing from the author’s article:

- Addresses of residences as we know them today did not exist even as far back as 1708. In London at this time there was the beginning of numbering homes on Prescott St..
- Craven Street in London, where Benjamin Franklin once lived, once had 3 different sets of numbering systems.
- In early 19th century New York City, an attempt was made to number houses on a block, but omitted vacant lots. When vacant lots were built upon, all the previously numbered streets had to be change in order to accommodate the new street number for the newly built home.
- Houses could be identified by street numbers but there was no requirement to actually have the numbers posted on the building.
- The Post Office began home delivery of in large cities in 1863. Prior to that you had to go to the post office to pick up your mail.
- The Post Office was challenged in making deliveries because states often had multiple towns of the same name, and towns themselves had multiple names of the same street! This was obviously before days Zip Codes!
- Salt Lake City in 1902 had 5 streets with the name Poplar Avenue!
- Rural town mail carriers knew their customers; mail carriers in larger cities did not know their customers with the same degree, thus making deliveries more challenging.

- The Post Office was influential in eliminating duplicate street names and making building owners display house numbers.
- Many towns began adopting the "Philadelphia System" of street numbering; each successive "block" starts a new numbers in increments of 100; odd numbers on one side of the street, even numbers on the other side, with the numbers following sequentially.
- Rural Free Delivery was introduced to rural postal customers in the 1890s along designated mail routes; families who did not live along such routes still had to set up their mailboxes on the designated route, but might have to travel several miles to get their mail.
- Postal Zones were started in the 1940s during WW II to make sorting and delivery of mail easier because there were so many new, inexperienced letter carriers. These were generally two numbers like Chicago 22, IL.
- Zip (Zone Improvement Plan) Codes started in 1963 and were five digits long such as Schaumburg, IL 60193.
- Zip Codes with 9 digits started in 1983

The author suggests we scour our old boxes of documents for these old envelopes, documents etc. that went through the Postal system of the time. You will be looking for letters, postcards, tax receipts or just about anything. Try to then tap into "city directories" of the times for the documents we have. You could find descriptions in these directories that are still not numbered-based for resident locations. You might see something like "cor. Elm and 4th" or "Main Street, between 5th and 6th".

Ancestry.com, Google Books and the Internet Archive are rich sources for these directories. You can also go to the Online Historical Directories Website at <http://sites.google.com/site/onlinedirectorysite>.

Street number identification often appeared on census data after 1880. Look for that there, especially if an ancestor lived in a larger city.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps are a great source for property identification. They cover information on over 12,000 towns in the United States. See what you can find online in these maps at the Library of Congress' Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps at www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/sanborn.

The address of an old ancestor home may have changed over the years. The ancestor did not move. The street was re-numbered by the municipality or the street name was changed. Don't assume an ancestor moved. (This happened in Chicago in 1909. The entirety of the city street numbering system was completely redone!)

I thought this article by David A. Norris was a wonderful historic review that gives the reader insights of how we arrived at the addressing of homes in the US over time. Something we take for granted today had a real interesting development over time. I think you will like this article.

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Handout #10 – “SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: A SOURCE WORTH THE EXPLORATION”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the November/December 2013, Volume 18, Number 2 issue of Family Chronicle.

I also thought that another interesting article in this issue is one titled “Special Collections: A Source Worth the Exploration”. The author of the article is Sharon A. Wilson.

Special Collections often contain items of historical significance. More and more libraries, both public and university, are making this kind of material available through the digitization process. These special collections may often be considered so special that they are not readily made available for public viewing. Thus, digitizing them as images of pages on the internet is the way much greater exposure is occurring for the material.

Some of these collections are very narrow in scope but can be very extensive. Some may not on the surface appear to have much genealogical information, but that often proves untrue as the material is researched.

The author provides these categories of Special Collection material for consideration:

- **Association and Organization Records** – The University of Massachusetts Amherst Library houses “The Loom Fixers Association Records, 1895-1917”. If your family ancestry connects to this area and time, you may very well find ancestral connections to the names in this list.
- **Church Records** – University of Chicago house “The Archdiocese of Chicago: Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Archives”. The researcher can find cemetery records and sacramental records in the collection.
- **City Directories** – the Akron Ohio Public Library offers PDF file version of many city directories dating back to 1859. Ball State University has a collection of Muncie, IN City Directories that cover city and rural route directories from 1876 to 1922.
- **Company Records and History** – records for the LTV/Chance Voight Company can be found at the University of Texas. This is an example that could show the difficulty in uncovering special collection material. In this case it has to do with “aviation”. So think of more than just a company name. Think of the general category of what a company might be known for. Embedded in this collection is significant material related to General “Jimmy” Doolittle. Your searches may not be easy in this category.
- **Government Records and Publications** – think of Federal Depository Libraries and the vast amount of government material that

are contained in them. There are over 1,250 Federal Depository Library locations. (Poplar Creek Public Library in Streamwood, IL is one!) To find one check out <http://catalog.gpo.gov/fdlpdir/FDLPdir.jsp>. These libraries can be in either universities or public libraries. Work with a specialist at one of these libraries because on the surface the records are cataloged in a rather unique manner that applies to a Federal Depository Library.

- **Manuscripts and Journals** – the Edythe Rucker Whitley Manuscript Collection at the Williamson County, TN Public Library holds 2,300 notebooks of genealogical research compiled by Mrs. Whitley. Some libraries may hold special collection material specific to genealogical materials.
- **Maps/Atlases** – University of Texas at Austin houses the Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection that includes more than 250,000 maps, with about 20% of that amount online.
- **Military/War Records** – think of things other than the major world wars and Civil War. The University of Illinois Special Collection includes the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1938. The University of California Los Angeles has a collection of Asian American history, particularly the relocations of Japanese Americans during WW II.
- **Newspapers** – the University of California, Los Angeles houses the Los Angeles Times (1920-1990) and the Los Angeles Daily News (1923-1954).
- **Oral Histories** – University of North Carolina has over 500 Oral Histories
- **Photograph and Postcard Collections** – special collection of photographs at the Lied Library, University of Nevada Las Vegas is valuable for their focus on the southern Nevada area. University of Dayton houses a special collection of postcards of Roman Catholic churches.
- **Family Histories** – these could be founding families for the local geographic area. It could be in the form of books, vertical file material or even family lineage charts. Don't assume the accuracy. Verification should be done. Don't forget the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, UT.
- **Rare Books** – topics vary by subject with rarity or antiquity being the key reason it is in a special collection. Viewing of the material has to be done under strict conditions. The Cincinnati Public Library has over 43,000 rare books in its collection.
- **Yearbooks** – the Hennepin County Library in Minnetonka, MN houses a very extensive collection of yearbooks for the Minneapolis area. Collection dates from 1890 to 1922 for both public and private schools. University of Nebraska has yearbook material from 1884 to 1972 for the school.

The author wants the reader to know that there can be special material in these special collections that is not always obvious. These materials can be challenging to work through. They are not often just indexes of surnames that genealogist like to use to quickly find ancestral information. There can be great finds of genealogical

information that will require time commitments on the researcher. But the rewards can be worth the effort! More and more of this material is being digitized for the very reason that it is rare and can be fragile. Viewing of the material can be limited onsite with many rules to follow. The fact that these collections are often prioritized for digitization means more of the material is making its way to the internet. Unfortunately, it does not mean it is being indexed in any manner. The pages still need to be viewed one by one. The material may not be searchable. But at least it is finding its way online and does not have to be viewed in person onsite.

Consider finding out about your local library's special collections or the library in the area for your family search. There may be something there worth your effort in time to uncover.

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