

February 2010 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our February 9, 2010 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program.

What does this really mean?

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

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

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

This program "Handout" information will then be uploaded to the Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Blog that is titled "Genealogy with Tony". This blog will be accessible from the library's main web site page at www.stdl.org. Select "Research" at the top of the page, then "Genealogy" on the left hand column, then scroll down and select "Genealogy with Tony". Look at the right hand side of the blog and you will see the "Handouts" information.

Here we go with the list of "handouts"!

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

I will continue to remind participants of our library's new genealogy blog. You can access it through our library home page at www.stdl.org by scrolling down the right side of the first page and then selecting "Blogs". On the next page just select "Genealogy with Tony" and you will arrive at the new genealogy blog.

Or you can just go directly to the blog at:

<http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

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

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

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

Try to visit the blog frequently to see what is going on. Subscribe to the blog via RSS (Really Simple Syndication) and you will receive notices when a new post or comment has been made at the blog.

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

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Handout #2 – DU PAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON FEBRUARY 27, 2009

The 35th Annual Conference of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Saturday, February 27, 2010 from 8 AM through 4 PM. Browsing of vendor material will occur from 8 AM until 9 AM, at which time the actual program content will begin.

The conference will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn at 4070 East Main Street in St. Charles, Illinois.

This is a great annual conference that I recommend to everyone to attend. You will obtain a full day's worth of genealogical information on a wide array of topics. It is certainly very local to our area and is easily reached. Listening to great speakers on many different topics will enhance your own genealogical research skills. Interacting with those in attendance is also a great way of not only learning more about genealogy but also being able to share that which you know with others.

Please see all of the conference information at:

www.dcgcs.org/workshop.html

There is still time to register. Walk-ins on the day of the conference are always welcome. You will probably pay the higher rates as a walk-in and may not be guaranteed a lunch box provided by the conference. I have walked in to all day conferences on the day of the event and found no difficulties at all.

Plan on attending the conference if it fits your schedule. You won't regret it.

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Handout #3 – GET LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE ONLINE FOR GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS

Did you ever want to start incorporating longitude and latitude coordinates into your genealogy research. Think of capturing coordinates for street addresses of ancestors, vacation locations you visited, military battle locations that ancestors may have been present at, cemetery locations etc. If you don't have a GPS device, you can input locations via this web site to obtain these latitude and longitude coordinates.

Take a look at www.getlatlon.com.

This web site was mentioned in Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter at www.eogn.com on December 29, 2009.

You can initially select a "map" view, "satellite" view or a "hybrid" view.

You can enter in the location you choose into the search box and start narrowing down your location. If I enter in "Hanover Park" into the search box, it will give me a map view of the town in the US. A "crosshairs" appears over this town. The "crosshairs" is just two very indistinct lines, so you may have a hard time finding the spot on the map since the crosshairs do not flash or blink or are color coded.

You will then see the following pieces of measurement information for "Hanover Park":

Latitude, Longitude: 41.9994722, -88.1450735

WKT: POINT(-88.1450735 41.9994722)

Google Maps zoom level: 11

Timezone: America/Chicago

Local time: Tue, 26 Jan 2010 11:30:21 -0600

Once you have entered in the town, you can then even enter in your exact address of interest and the site will find it if it exists and give you a nice overview map as well as a "crosshair" location for the address along with coordinate as shown above.

This is a very matter of fact way to establish these coordinates that you can then enter into your genealogy software data on your ancestors.

This is just another way to take your research data a step further for tracking purposes.

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Handout #4 – RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL CEMETERIES TRANSCRIPTION PROJECT ONLINE

Take a look at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rigenweb/cemetery>.

This web site was mentioned in Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter at www.eogn.com on December 28, 2009.

This is the site for the Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries Transcription Project.

If anyone has Rhode Island ancestry, then this is the place to visit on the internet.

Data included covers 1647 to 1900. The data is about 95% complete for the project. It is estimated that there is about 430,000 grave entries for about 3,100 cemeteries in Rhode Island.

You can search the Master Index and obtain the following if you get a hit:

Last Name

First Name

Maiden Name

Birth

Death

Cemetery Info

You can search by entering the name in a search box or you can search by simply scrolling down a list of names for an alphabetical category.

Obviously, maiden name might not be there, and birth and death information may only be a year and not the full entry. The cemetery info is a coded word that you would use on another part of the site to establish the cemetery name and location.

The site says that the Master Index is only available online and that the full accessibility to the data by computer is located at selected spots throughout Rhode Island.

I am not clear what this really means since I found plenty of names when searching the data online?

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Handout #5 – NEW YORK STATE MILITARY MUSEUM

Take a look at <http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/historic/index.htm>.

This web site was mentioned in Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter at www.eogn.com on December 29, 2009.

This is a site for the New York State Military Museum.

The museum itself is located in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Military material in the collection covers the time period from the Revolutionary War through Desert Storm as it applies to New York state citizens that served in the various conflicts throughout the time period.

On the website you can find online data that covers the following:

- Adjutant General Reports from 1846 to 1955. These are large PDF documents on the website that are images of the original document.
- The New York National Guardsman magazine in PDF format from 1924 to 1940.
- Register of Officers Who's Services Terminated Prior to January 1, 1858. This is just a listing of the names of those in this category. Their rank is also described.

You can also find some great pictures arranged by era such as 1784-1859, 1866-1913.

There are also links on the site for you to obtain information on the various military flags used in the state as well as all of the forts known to exist within the state. You can find forts by name or by era. Nice maps are presented on the forts for you to obtain a better idea of their location.

If you have any ancestral connection to the state of New York and that connection involves a military connection, then you will want to visit this site and take a greater look at the fullness of the material that is included on the site. The online data certainly looks interesting to look at and search through.

You may obtain some good military information from this site if you have any New York state genealogical connection. Give it a try.

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Handout #6 – BROOKLYN REVEALED ONLINE

Take a look at <http://www.brooklynrevealed.com>.

This web site was mentioned in the most recent issue of Internet Genealogy as being a site that should be noted.

Once again, there may be more applicability to this site for those having some New York state ancestry, and in particular Brooklyn.

You can find some of the following information at the site:

- History of the 6 original towns of Brooklyn.
- A listing of the streets in Brooklyn and the history of how the names came to be.
- Small bibliography and list of other Brooklyn related web sites of interest.
- An interactive map of Brooklyn that shows the following 6 "town" divisions
 - Bushwick
 - Brooklyn
 - Flatbush
 - Flatlands
 - New Utrecht
 - Gravesend

Within each of the 6 towns, you can click on the part of the map representing it and you will see a nice history of the area. You will also be presented with a series of historic pictures for each of the Brooklyn areas that you can scroll through to see what interests you.

It doesn't look like you will be able to obtain surname information from the site, just historical background of the area and the streets.

Still, if you have a New York/Brooklyn connection, this is a nice and informative site that can provide you with some great nostalgic background information on an area in which your ancestors may have lived.

It is well worth a visit.

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Handout #7 – INTERACTIVE IMMIGRATION MAP

Take a look at www.nytimes.com/interactive/2009/03/10/us/20090310-immigration-explorer.html?hp

This web site was mentioned in the most recent issue of Internet Genealogy as being a site that should be noted.

This is a site that provides you with an interactive map of the US showing where pockets of immigrants appear to have congregated in at the end of their immigration experience.

You will a map of the US. As you hover the cursor over various areas of the country, you will see the identification of the county you are over. You will also see what the total population is of the county and what the number is of foreign-born of the population as of the year 2000, which is the default year of information for the site.

You can also use a “slider” bar at the site and set the year to 1990, 1980, 1880 etc. correlating to the various census years. The span that you can look at includes 1880 to 2000. So for each of these census years, you will see population figures for a given area of the country showing total population and foreign born numbers.

Better yet, you can select near the top of the page what specific ethnic groups you may want to see. The map will then highlight where these ethnic groups predominate over time, again using the slide to select a year from the range mentioned above. The numbers presented will then show you total population and population of that specific ethnic group in relation to the whole population of the county.

Ethnic groups are color coded on the map according to a higher level category such as Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Americas etc. There is no distinct color code for Germans or for Polish as an example because these are grouped under Eastern European.

This interactive map provides some great insights to the researcher to see where pockets of an ethnic group may seem to have congregated over time. If you have no idea where an ancestor may have lived but know the ethnicity, you can make a wild stab as to see where pockets of the ethnicity may have lived throughout the US to give you an idea where to focus.

This site is definitely worth visiting!

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Handout #8 – ANCESTRY MAGAZINE DISCONTINUED

This is a very sad announcement. Ancestry Magazine has announced that the March/April 2010 printing will be the last magazine produced. This journal has been published for the last 25 years. The formal announcement can be found at the magazine's website at:

www.ancestrymagazine.com

It is a sad day added on to many previous sad days when another outstanding genealogy journal ceases to exist.

Over the last year the genealogy community has previously lost the likes of Digital Genealogist and Everton's Genealogical Helper. And now Ancestry Magazine. Some are lost totally, some morph into an online journal. All in print are generally lost to lack of advertising revenue. This deep economic recession has taken its toll. There can be only so many genealogy journals that can support the advertising dollars that currently exist in the community.

But all is not lost. For those of you that have not been subscribing to copies of Ancestry Magazine, you can still visit the web site mentioned above and click on their link called "Issues" to see some of the past issues of Ancestry Magazine and the full text articles that were found in that issue. There generally appeared to be about a 2 or 3 month delay on availability for you to be able to read the magazine online. It seems like Ancestry Magazine makes the last 6 issues available online in full text after the initial 2 to 3 month publication delay. Unfortunately, I could not find any indication on their site of an "archive" area where full publications past the most recent 6 published can be found to vie in their entirety. Instead, you must select a topic of interest that will lead you the journal article.

They also have a nice "Browse" section on their home page that allows you to look at a very large list of subjects and topics. If you find a topic of interest you can click on the link and you will receive a list of the articles that appeared in past issues on the topic. Click on the link to the story and you can read it full text.

You may want to bookmark the site and follow them for current news and articles online. The "Issues" section and the "Browse" section on the homepage can also be of great use to you in seeking topics of interest.

Alas poor Ancestry Magazine, we knew ye well!

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Handout #9 – SIX MALWARE REMOVAL WINNERS

Need better security for your PC to protect it from malware and other bad things?

Need some security that is not only free but also highly rated.

Then take a look at the following site to gain some insights on what you can add to your computer to protect it from bad things. Take a look at:

<http://arstechnica.com/security/news/2009/10/av-comparatives-picks-six-malware-removal-winners.ars>

This web site was mentioned in Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter at www.eogn.com on December 24, 2009.

The protection product is called Microsoft Security Essentials. A virus testing company called Av-Comparatives.org that you can find at www.av-comparatives.org ran a test on the product and gave it a rousing thumbs up!

Dick Eastman's article also provided the links for the free downloads to the product. Take a look at the following:

You can download the free Microsoft Security Essentials at:

Windows XP 32-bit (8.61MB) at

<http://download.microsoft.com/download/A/3/8/A38FFBF2-1122-48B4-AF60-E44F6DC28BD8/mssefullinstall-x86fre-en-us-xp.exe>

Windows Vista/7 32-bit (4.28MB) at

<http://download.microsoft.com/download/A/3/8/A38FFBF2-1122-48B4-AF60-E44F6DC28BD8/mssefullinstall-x86fre-en-us-vista-win7.exe>

Windows Vista/7 64-bit (4.71MB) at

<http://download.microsoft.com/download/A/3/8/A38FFBF2-1122-48B4-AF60-E44F6DC28BD8/mssefullinstall-amd64fre-en-us-vista-win7.exe>

Handout #10 – REVO UNINSTALLER – REMOVE UNWANTED PROGRAMS FROM YOUR COMPUTER

Do you just have too much “stuff” on your computer desktop? Sort of like your own home may be loaded with “stuff”. Stuff can paralyze your ability to work effectively on your computer with too much stuff that you never even use.

Take a look at the following web site for a company called the VS Revo Group at:

http://www.revouninstaller.com/revo_uninstaller_free_download.html

This web site for the company was mentioned in Dick Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter at www.eogn.com on December 27, 2009.

For those using Windows, you can obtain a “free” product that will help you remove this bloat from your system. You can also purchase a “Professional” version for about \$40. There are some limitations on the “free” version that the website points out.

So if you have Windows Bloat here is a place from which you can obtain some relief in either the “free” but limited version or the full blown “Professional” version for about \$40.

Check out the site.

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