

March 2010 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our March 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 – FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES OPENS
REGISTRATION FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Registration for the 2010 Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Conference, scheduled for 18-21 August 2010 in beautiful Knoxville, Tennessee, is now open. This year's conference theme is "Rediscovering America's First Frontier," and is co-hosted by the East Tennessee Historical Society and the Kentucky Historical Society.

The conference schedule includes 173 presentations by 73 noted speakers, including a large number of sponsored luncheons with speakers. There will be two exciting evening events: "Come Sit a Spell: Ballads, Mountain Stories, and Country Fare," organized by the host societies; and the annual gala FGS banquet, "An Evening in Old Appalachia," which will be held at the fascinating Museum of Appalachia.

There are more activities and research opportunities too numerous to list. However, you can learn all about the 2010 FGS Conference and register for this exciting four-day event at <http://www.fgs.org/2010conference>. Be sure to also visit or subscribe to the FGS Conference Blog at <http://www.fgsconferenceblog.org> for lots more information and travel advice.

I am a big proponent of attending conferences to enhance your genealogical research skills. Attending a large annual conference put on by a renowned genealogical organization can put you in a state of "genealogical nirvana". The size of the program is enormous. The number of individual programs that you can attend over a four day period can be overwhelming. Vendors are present making you aware of products and services they offer that can help you in your research. Attending a program of this scope should be a once in a lifetime goal if you can make that happen. You will not be disappointed.

Visit the web site links of the FGS for many more details on the individual programs that will be available as well as all other things related to the conference such as travel plans, accommodations, local information, cost etc. I have even posted information on this event within our library's genealogy blog.

Even if you do not attend this program, take a detailed look at all of the various programs that are offered over this four day program. It will amaze you at the number of different genealogical topics that are presented. There may even be one that is right up your own research "alley" that you can note both for its speaker and for the possibility of it occurring some place else at some future date.

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Handout #3 – NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COUNCIL OF GENEALOGISTS ON MARCH 16, 2010

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists will take place on Tuesday evening, March 16, 2010. The program for the evening is titled “**Non-Federal Civil War Sources for Family History Research**”. The speaker for the evening will be Craig Pfannkuche.

Meetings take place at Forest View Education Center, 2121 South Goebbert (turn south at Golf and Goebbert), Arlington Heights, IL 60005 at 7:30 p.m. There is a round table discussion that takes place at 7 PM prior to the main meeting that starts at 7:30 PM. Participants are invited to attend this round table and bring their research questions for discussion.

Craig has previously presented many programs at our own library over the years. If you have not seen heard him or seen him give a presentation then you will be in for a great treat.

Check out this program from this other local society in our area.

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 #4 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT PROGRAM ON MARCH 17, 2010

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, March 17, 2010. The program scheduled for that evening is “**Cemetery Symbols**”. The speaker for the program will be Joy Matthiessen.

Joy has previously presented at our own library genealogy program.

Her presentation contains many photos she presents from a carousel projector.

This is a great time of the year to consider learning more about cemetery research because the snows will ultimately disappear. Walking the cemeteries in better conditions will soon become possible again.

You may discover on your own ancestors’ gravestones unique and special inscriptions on the headstone or monument. Joy’s presentation can shed some light on what these “symbols” mean. Cemetery symbols may be more prolific from the time frame of your ancestors’ deaths. Times have changed. You may not see the symbolism today on recent deaths placed on headstones. They may be much more visible on headstones from the eras of our own ancestors.

I would also recommend that anyone interested in learning more about cemetery iconography that you take a look at a book we have in our collection titled ***Stories in Stone: a Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography***. The author of the book is Douglas Keister. The call number of the book in our library is 731.949 KEISTER, D. Check it out to see all of the various symbols that exist. This may be a book that is well worth purchasing for your own personal collection, especially if you plan to do a good deal of onsite cemetery research. Pack this book with you on your cemetery research trips. Or use it at home when you are analyzing any digital pictures you may take of the headstones and monuments of your ancestors.

You may visit the society's web page at:

www.dcgs.org

For more about this particular program as well as for information about the society itself:

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Handout #5 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON MARCH 20, 2010

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, March 20, 2010 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"What's New in Technology"**. The speaker for the program will be Ed Rosenthal.

You may visit the organization web page at:

www.CAGGNI.org

Do you feel like technology changes are moving at warp speed? Are you keeping up with all of the changes? Honestly, probably not!

Ed can give you some insights into what some of the major technological changes are that will soon be facing you as it applies to your genealogical research.

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

Technology and genealogy are joined at the hip. Don't be caught in a technological quagmire!

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Handout #6 – FOOTNOTE.COM HAS ADDED SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF VIET NAM WAR MILITARY PHOTOS AT ITS WEBSITE

The following announcement was written by Footnote.com and was previously mentioned in Dick Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter:

-Over 27,000 Photos And Records Are Added To The Largest Online Vietnam War Collection-

Lindon, UT – February 4, 2010 – Today Footnote.com announced a major addition to its Vietnam War Collection: Army Photos and Unit Service Awards. Now totaling over 100,000 photos and documents, this collection helps visitors gain a better perspective and appreciation for this often misunderstood event in U.S. History.

“Our partnership with the National Archives has proven to be invaluable as we work to make these records more accessible,” explains Russell Wilding, CEO of Footnote.com. “Previously you were required to travel to Washington, D.C. to see these records. Now anyone can access the original records through the internet.”

The Army Photos feature various activities of the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. In nearly every case there is a caption or description of what was happening and the names of the soldiers featured in the photos. Everything ranging from daily duties to Bob Hope’s Christmas program is captured, providing a glimpse into what life was like for the soldiers.

In addition to these new records, the Footnote Vietnam War Collection also includes:

- The Interactive Vietnam Veterans Memorial – featuring service records for each name on the wall
- Photos of the Marine Corps in Vietnam - color
- Photos of the Marine Corps in Vietnam - black and white

The Vietnam War Collection will be made free to the public during the month of February. To view these documents, visit www.footnote.com/vietnam.

In terms of age, this data is literally within the life span of us today as genealogical researchers. The fact that captions exist on many of the photos identifying those present in the picture could connect our own research on our ancestors, parents, and siblings who were involved in the military and were stationed in Viet Nam during the 1960’s and early 1970’s.

Please note that our library subscribes to Footnote.com. You can use this valuable resource only in our library itself. It is **NOT** available from home as so many of our other genealogical databases. This is due to licensing arrangements. You can also personally subscribe to Footnote.com to access its data from home any time of the day or night. If you are in our library, give it a try.

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Handout #7 – STATE CENSUS DATA ONLINE FROM ANCESTRY.COM AND FAMILYSEARCH.ORG

We have received the January/February 2010, Volume 14, Number 3 issue of Family Chronicle. In this most recent issue, there is a very good article titled "The Other American Censuses".

State census data was captured in the midpoint year between the regular Federal decennial censuses. So you will see these as having been taken in the years as 1865, 1885 1905 etc. They can occur in any year, but mid-decennial time period is when you see the most.

Previously, these were available from the National Archives in microfilm format. Now, you are able to see more and more of these valuable censuses becoming available online from Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org. They are fully indexed as well as being linked to the actual image itself of what was written down by the census taker.

Take a look at what is in Ancestry.com by selecting the link from their page that says "All Databases". Then enter in the search box the term "state census". The results show that there are at least 25 databases in Ancestry.com for state census information. Ancestry.com even shows the amount of records that are contained in each database. There are about 670,000 records shown for the special Illinois state censuses that occurred between 1825 and 1865. If you are lucky enough to have Iowa ancestors then note that Ancestry.com has about 9 million entries in the special state census collection for Iowa from 1836 to 1925!

Take a look at the FamilySearch.org site and select "Records Pilot Search". Select "browse entire collection". Then select on the map that shows the United States. I noticed for all of the databases under the United States, you can a total of 19 state censuses that cover the states of Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Rhode Island, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The years of the census vary within the states mentioned. Some databases may not be indexed. Some may have images only that would cause you to look through the data as if it were a microfilm reader. Here is a link to the FamilySearch.org site showing the list of databases available for the United States. Look to see what you can find for your state census of interest. Here is the link:

<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#p=allCollections;r=0>

I can personally attest to a research success using the Wisconsin 1905 state census. In this census I was able to find the Great grandfather for my wife still alive in 1905 near Janesville, WI. He was in the 1900 census with his wife but I could not find either of them in the 1910 Wisconsin federal census. Now I know he was still alive in 1905 but perhaps died between 1905 and 1910. I did note that the 1905 census indicated he was a widower. I now know his wife died between 1900 and 1905. Every clue is valuable in your research.

The state censuses are wonderful resources. Now, many are available online. Don't miss out on the chance to research your ancestors in between the decennial census.

Look at Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org to get complete listing of state census data available from each.

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Handout #8 – CANADIAN RECORDS ONLINE

I found the following link mentioned in the most recent issue of Internet Genealogy.

The journal often highlights web sites of note. The one mentioned in this issue was one pointing to a great online resource for anyone doing Canadian research. Take a look at:

www.genealogysearch.org/canada/new.html

The website allows you search material it has for all of Canada or you can select a specific Canadian province to search. It looks like the most recent additions to this site were added in September 2009. You will find featured databases as well as links to a variety of subjects and information on Canadian research on the Internet.

The amount of information actually appears to be overwhelming when you are just browsing the initial page. You may want to select a specific province if you can. For specific provinces you may very well find county level breakdowns within. So if you know of lower level Canadian geographic breakdowns in you research you can see if anything exists for the county you seek within the province of Canada you are researching.

If you are doing Canadian research and were not aware of this site, then you must bookmark the site and spend some time reviewing all that you can find here. There is a lot of stuff here to help you with your Canadian research!!

It does appear difficult to navigate through all that is there. The resources are not really broken down by subject nor do they appear to be in alphabetical order. Unfortunately, it does appear that you will simply have to scroll down and browse through all of the databases and links that are included at this site. Knowing a specific province of interest would be more helpful.

So while there is much here, it is not very easy to find something that may interest you without scrolling down and down and down looking at each resource entry. Be patient and hope you can have some luck with all that is available at the site. Try searching the page itself with a term of your choice to see if that term exists among all of the links.

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Handout #9 – TOP CANADIAN GENEALOGY BLOGS AND FRENCH CANADIAN GENEALOGY RESOURCES

Also found in the most recent issue of Internet Genealogy was an article that mentioned the top Canadian genealogy blogs as well as the top 10 sites to be aware of if you are researching French-Canadian ancestry.

The top Canadian genealogy blogs listed are:

- Anglo-Celtic Connections @ <http://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com>
- Olive Tree Genealogy @ <http://olivetreegenealogy.blogspot.com>
- Librarians Helping Canadian Genealogists Climb Family Trees @ www.canadianlibgenie.blogspot.com
- Toronto 1861 @ <http://toronto1861.blogspot.com>
- Prairie History Blog @ www.reginalibrary.ca/blogs/
- The Global Gazette @ <http://globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/>
- The Ancestry.CA Newsletter for Canadians @ www.ancestry.ca/learn/learningcenters/

The top 10 sites for French-Canadian research listed within the article are:

- Quebec and Eastern Townships Research Page @ <http://simmons.b2b2c.ca>
- Le Centre De Genealogie Francophone d’Amerique @ www.genealogie.org
- FrancoGene@ www.francogene.com
- Ancestry.CA @ www.ancestry.ca
- Le Programme De Recherche En Demographie Historique (PRDH) / The Research Program in Historical Demography @ www.genealogie.umontreal.ca/en/
- BMS2000.org @ www.bms2000.org
- That’s My Family/Voici Ma Famille @ www.thatsmyfamily.info
- BAnQ – Genealogy Portal @ www.banq.qc.ca/portal/dt/genealogie
- Notre-Dame-Des-Neiges Cemetery @ www.notredamedesneigescemetery.ca/en/research/locate.htm
- Fichier Oriine @ www.fichierorigine.com

Check out those sites that interest you for your Canadian research. Be aware that the sites for French-Canadian resources may be in French only while some may allow you to select the “English” flag to see the material in English.

Give some of the sites a try to see if any help you.

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Handout #10 – GENDISASTERS – PUT YOUR ANCESTORS IN DISASTERS OF THEIR TIME

The most recent issue of Family Chronicle that we received made note of a very interesting site that relates to “disasters” that occurred over historic times. Perhaps your own ancestors may have actually been involved in the disaster. Maybe they were unaffected but lived nearby. What did they think? How did they feel? Perhaps, if they had lost their life, then you might not even be here today doing research on them!!

I think it is always a fun exercise to do to put ourselves into their lives. Imagining how their lives were in mundane days of their lives is one thing. Thinking of them in times of major disasters is an entire other exercise!

Visit the site at <http://www3.gendisasters.com>

You can:

- Browse by Disaster
- Browse by State
- Browse Canada
- Browse by Year
- Access a Disaster Message Board

If you select a state as “Illinois”, you will see results presented by grouped according to the types of “disasters” such as:

- Air Disasters (number of events)
- Animal Accidents (number of events)
- Automobile Accidents (number of events)
- Boating Accidents (number of events)
- Fires
- Floods
- Ship Disasters

I think you see what is presented to you. You get a scope of the number of events within each category. When you click on the category of disaster, you are presented with the identification of the event and a link which appears to take you to a “newspaper” article from a paper that reported on the event in question. The articles are presented in alphabetical order by town name for that category of disaster. The articles appear to have been transcribed into the text you see. Credit is given to the transcriber.

The disasters run from way back in time (1755) to our present year (2010). They are not necessarily the largest disasters of all times but it sure seemed interesting to use this web site to see if an ancestor of yours may have been connected with a geographic area of your research as well as placing them in the area at the same time of the incident.

It appears you have to register yourself in order to add disaster events or to post messages into the message board. You can easily browse the message board to

take a look at what people have left as messages and requests for help. You do not have to register just to browse the message board.

I found this site to be very interesting. Putting your ancestors at sites where disasters occurred certainly puts lives of these ancestors in a different perspective.

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