

April 13, 2010 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our April 13, 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 – NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COUNCIL OF GENEALOGISTS ON APRIL 20, 2010

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists will take place on Tuesday evening, April 20, 2010. The program for the evening is titled **“Naturalization: It’s History and Records”**. The speaker for the evening will be Kathryn Barrett.

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.

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 #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT PROGRAM ON APRIL 21, 2010

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, April 21, 2010. The program scheduled for that evening is **“Using eBay to Find Genealogical Material”**. The speaker for the program will be Edward Udovic.

Visit eBay at www.ebay.com. Just click on the search box on the main page using “genealogy” as your search term. That is a very broad term that will still result in over 9,000 hits in eBay. They run the gamut of CD’s, journals etc. It sounds like Ed will be able to really dig deep into eBay to make you aware of more that exists that can be found with better searches.

One of our previous speakers showed us how he used eBay to find old-time postcards that showed the passenger ships our ancestors used to make their passage to the United States. Don’t overlook eBay as a source for something you could find that is connected to an ancestral search you are doing.

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 #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON APRIL 17, 2010

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, April 17, 2010 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is "**Footnote.com**". The speaker for the program will be Caron Brennan.

You may visit the organization web page at:

www.CAGGNI.org

Footnote.com is a very popular and growing subscribable genealogical resource site. They have digitized much data that is uniquely available through their site. Individuals can subscribe to this site and obtain access to the documents they have. They often "free" times when they are promoting new material in their collection.

Our library subscribes to this site with the only drawback being is that it can only be accessed within our library or branches to access the data. It is not available for home use through our library as is so many other databases we subscribe to. Anyone can access the main Footnote.com web site from home but data access is only granted to those having a subscription. You can search the site to see what "hits" you have for your research, but you will not be able to see the material without the subscription.

Caron will be giving an overview on how to best use the site to obtain the maximum amount of information in an effective and efficient manner. Footnote.com can be a daunting site to search through. They have a lot of material that appears on the screen. Visit the site in advance at www.footnote.com. You can search it to see what material is found that may apply to your research. You just cannot get the material unless you are subscribed.

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 – ROOTS TELEVISION STRUGGLING BUT PLANS ON BEING AROUND

This bit of news was brought to my attention from the blog of Dick Eastman.

RootsTelevision is an absolutely great learning site for genealogical material in a video format. You can visit the site at www.rootstelevision.com. I highly recommend taking a look at this site now, especially since the news from the site appears to be ominous as to its survivability. Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak is the person most responsible for creating this great site. She is committed to maintaining this site into the future. It may have to be modified or tweaked in order to insure survivability, but she is committed to having this site available for all of us to use and learn from.

Megan is considering incorporating the idea of adding commercials to the videos that exist on the site to offset the costs and create some revenue for her to continue to maintain the site. So you may shortly see commercials within the material on the site. It was apparently an overwhelming response that Megan received from those questioned that commercials would be gladly accepted at the site if that would mean the site would continue to exist.

Some of the video you can discover at this site are somewhat amateurish, but well-intentioned and still useful. Other material is very professional. You can browse on the site for material that is categorized into types such as the following:

- New and Featured
- African Roots
- Ancestors Series
- British Roots
- Conferences
- DNA
- Hispanic Roots

and many, many more categories.

Or you can also search the entirety of the material to see if something fits your search term.

As an example, if you searched the collection using a search term as “Eastman” you would be provided with an all-inclusive list of the videos created by Dick Eastman as he interviewed many well known genealogical researchers and authors that he encountered at a variety of genealogical conferences throughout the world. The interviews are in-depth and informative and can be for lengths of 10 to 15 minutes. Thank you Dick Eastman for creating this treasure trove of material that can help researchers!

You can click on the category “Ancestors Series” and see what is available that was professionally created by PBS and shown on their network in the past years.

This site basically can provide you with personal and private genealogical lessons on a variety of genealogical topics. Just be creative with your search to see what may exist that can help you learn an important topic in genealogical research.

Visit the site at www.rootstelevision.com. It is a goldmine of learning wealth!

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Handout #6 – “WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE” ON NBC ON FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 7 PM CENTRAL TIME

Information on this show was made available from Dick Eastman’s blog and has been included in the April 2010 STDL Genealogy Newsletter.

Genealogy research has finally hit prime time in the United States! The NBC show “Who do You Think You Are” has finally hit air time on NBC on Friday evenings at 7 PM Central time. A very successful show of the same name has been successfully airing in Great Britain for a number of years. Obviously, the success of the show there opened up the opportunity for the show to happen in the US with US celebrities.

The show started airing on Friday evening, March 5, 2010. So far, four 60 minute episodes have aired, with three more scheduled to air. It appears that the seven episode series is a “trial” to gauge audience response and determine feasibility for future episodes.

The seven celebrities who’s genealogical history will be unfolded on the show are:

- Matthew Broderick
- Lisa Kudrow
- Sarah Jessica Parker
- Spike Lee
- Emmett Smith
- Brooke Shields
- Susan Sarandon

Response appears to be very good so far. The statistics show that the audience rating for a Friday evening is in line with what shows at this time produce on NBC. The show came in second for its time slot with a 1.8 audience rating. The highest rated show in this time span was “Ghost Whisperer” by CBS. This show has a 1.9 rating. So this new “genealogy” show certainly held its own quite well and did not get blown out in the ratings war.

You can visit the NBC web site at www.nbc.com look at the top of the screen on their home page for “shows”. If you open this up, you will find a link under “current shows” to the show itself that provides background on the show and provides a list of the 7 scheduled “celebrity” genealogy shows that are part of this original series. The best part is that you can also replay on your computer the first 4 episodes of the show if you have previously missed them! Check out the show so you can establish your opinion and gauge whether it is a success for you. If so, you may see more shows next season.

One thing you will also notice when you get to the show description on the NBC web site is the incredible amount of advertising sponsored by Ancestry.com within the NBC description of this new show!

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Handout #7 – FAMILYSEARCH.ORG HAS ONLINE GENEALOGY LESSONS AVAILABLE

I also became aware of the following information from the March 12, 2010 posting on Dick Eastman’s blog at www.eogn.com.

I strongly recommend that you check out the following web site from FamilySearch.org. You can now learn even more about some topics of genealogical research that may interest you. The web site is providing video lessons as well as a text overview of the lesson. Go to www.familysearch.org and then on the opening page look for the link that says “Free Online Classes” under Family History Library.

There are currently 23 Family History Library classes available online, with subjects ranging from European research to United States military records. The most popular offerings are the Beginning Research Series for Ireland and England and a class on descendency research.

The classes vary in length from 6 to 58 minutes, with most lasting about 25 minutes. The format of the class varies, depending on the content being presented. One type of class shows a video that alternates between the teacher and the PowerPoint slides. Another kind of class integrates video of the presenter, the accompanying PowerPoint slides, and links to supplemental materials all in one screen.

Several of the classes are interactive, such as a course on reading German handwriting. In these classes, the teacher is represented with still photographs and audio narration, and the student can actively participate in learning activities, such as matching English and German characters or transcribing selected words from a document. As a student types, the correct text appears in green and incorrect answers appear in red, providing immediate feedback.

When I looked at the “handout” for the English series, it seems to download it as a PDF that is really images of a PowerPoint presentation. It was about 64 pages. I clicked on the down arrow to get me to the next page, but it seemed like I saw nothing on the screen. I had to scroll down a good amount to see what this page actually was. Each page that you clicked down made you have to scroll down in order to see the material. You can work around it, but at first you might think there was nothing there.

I also noticed that the site indicated that some videos are to be seen using Microsoft Silverlight instead of being in a generic format that any video reader could process. It loaded OK for me and was playable. Accompanying video slides were also being shown within Microsoft Silverlight. None of this seemed like a problem for me to access the material. The video of the speaker played in a window and you saw the slides she was using for the presentation. They changed on screen automatically.

Bookmark this site and revisit it often to see what has been added. Initially check it out to see what current courses may be of help to your own research.

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Handout #8 – AMERICAN CIVIL WAR HOMEPAGE

For those of you doing Civil War ancestral research, you may want to take a look at the American Civil War Homepage. This site came to my attention in the recent issue of Family Chronicle for March/April 2010 in the section they include titled “Web Sites Worth Surfing”.

The site can be visited at <http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/warweb.html>.

You will find the site identified by 13 “Topics” that relate to a variety of aspects of the Civil War. The categories mentioned are:

- General Resources
- Biographical Information
- State/Local Studies by State
- Other Military Information
- The Secession Crisis and Before
- Histories and Bibliographies
- Battles and Campaigns
- Civil War Reenactors
- Fictional Accounts of Wartime
- Images of Wartime
- Documentary Records
- Rosters and Regimental Histories
- Civil War Roundtables

Each of the main categories itself may be broken down into many, many more subcategories. Within each category you will find massive listings of links to a variety of web sites on the topic that falls within the general category. The good part is that there is an endless amount of links that may be very valuable for your own research. The bad thing about the data is that the massive lists of potentially helpful web sites are not in any kind of alphabetical order. The researcher may face the following kind of links in the General Category in the order of the following:

- Civil War Academy
- Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Raleigh, NC
- The Civil War in America from the Illustrated London News
- Civil War Animated
- Australian and New Zealand Civil War Veterans
- Manuscript Civil War Maps from West Point

Do you see the effort you will have to make when you may encounter a list of web site resources that may 120 items in length? You will encounter very long lists of un-alphabetized listing of links that you will have to peruse in their entirety to find the one that may be of value to you. There may be a great kernel of information for you but you will have to be patient and work hard to find it!

You may be in for better luck if your research has uncovered a specific regiment in which an ancestor served. In this section of the material on the site, the regimental identifications are in state order for each side and within each state in regimental

order. So if you have a regiment, you should be able to quickly see if any link exists for this regiment that can be of help to you.

Consider this site to be a "CyndisList" type site of all things Civil War. Click on a link and it will take you to a site maintained by someone else on the topic at hand.

Give this site a try and the best advice is to be patient while perusing the massive amount of links you will encounter.

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Handout #9 – PROTECTING YOUR PRECIOUS PAPERS

I came across the following piece of information while browsing through the March/April 2010 issue of Family Chronicle. The article itself presented some great tips on how to protect paper material you may have in your possession from ancestors in order to preserve it for future generations. A web site was mentioned in the article. It is a site of a professional preservationist. You can find some great tips that they have noted on how to protect and preserve your material.

You can visit this preservation site at:

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/kyla.ubbink>

They also offer their services to repair material for you and include in their site actual “before” and “after” photos of the material that they have saved. The site itself is very eye appealing and helpful. The conservator is located in Ottawa, Canada.

The site offers a good amount of advice on the variety of problematic material you may encounter. For material that is damaged, you may want to get it repaired. The preventative advice is good for all of us for material that is still in good shape. Advice is given on how to care for the material in a preventative manner to avoid it getting damaged and needing repair.

Under “Water” damage the owner of the site provides the following “tip” information that can be found at the site:

Disaster: Flood

Resulting in soiling of paper objects, distortion, loss of media, loss of fillers and sizes in the paper, increases risk of mould and pest infestations, adhesion of two or more sheets together either through emulsions, coatings, or media, and loss of previous repairs.

Preventative Measures:

- Do not store valued paper objects in areas of high flood risk (ie. basements).
- Store valued objects in custom enclosures. Enclosures will provide support for a wet object, act as a filter for dirt and keep moisture and limited amounts of water away from the object.
- Wet paper objects should be laid out on a support with gentle flowing air until fully dried. Consult a conservator for more information on drying techniques and for flattening of cockled and warped objects.

The site has many “tips” to preserve your material that you can find under the following categories:

- Careless Handling
- Pests/Moulds
- Improper Repairs
- Flood

- Fire
- Vandalism
- Housing
- Environmental Conditions
- Acid
- Sunlight
- Media
- Foxing

We may only have one chance to insure the survivability of material we have come by from our ancestors and that is to preserve it for future generations. Take a look at this site for some tips and thoughts on what to do before it is too late.

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Handout #10 – FAMVIEWER VERSION 2.2 FOR IPHONE AND IPOD TOUCH

The following piece of information came from Dick Eastman's blog on March 2, 2010.

Smart phones are the hot items for now. They are more than just cell phones. They are mini-computers, capable of doing incredible things for a device that fits in the palm of your hand. Software providers are taking advantage of the power of these devices and are creating genealogy software packages that can be added on to your smart phones. You can now import GEDCOM files into these smart phone applications and carry around your entire genealogical research on these devices for instant access.

A company by the name of Aster Software has created a software package that can be incorporated into the iPhone and the iPod Touch. It is Version 2.2 of FamViewer.

FamViewer imports standard GEDCOM files and displays them on the iPhone. GEDCOM files can be uploaded to FamViewer with a web browser on a desktop computer or downloaded to FamViewer from any web site or web server via WiFi. FamViewer will import the GEDCOM file and display its contents. Once a GEDCOM file is downloaded and imported you can view individuals, families, notes and sources. Navigate the family tree with a touch. You can carry your genealogy database with you wherever you bring your iPhone or iPod Touch.

New in version 2.2 is the New Note feature. Add a New Note to anyone in the database. Users can then email all the new notes to themselves, either in plain text format or as a GEDCOM file. The New Notes feature allows users to add details of their research when at an archive or cemetery.

FamViewer can display an eight generation ancestor chart for anyone in the database. Tap on the name of anyone displayed in the chart and go to their family page.

An index by surname allows the user to find anyone in the database. A family view, resembling a family group sheet, displays three generations of a family: parents, children, and grandparents. Touch the parent's names to view the details of their life events and personal attributes. Each event and attribute can have sources and notes, which are visible in another view.

All the FamViewer views work in portrait or landscape orientation so long names, places, dates or other data can be easily viewed.

FamViewer isn't tied to any desktop genealogy software. Active genealogy researchers already own genealogy software that they run on their desktop, or laptop, computers. All modern genealogy software can export their genealogy databases in GEDCOM format. FamViewer will import GEDCOM files exported by today's popular genealogy applications.

FamViewer can be purchased at the Apple appstore and is priced at US \$14.99. To find out more about FamViewer visit the appstore with iTunes. FamViewer is listed under Productivity Applications and Genealogy. More information is also available at

<http://www.astersoftware.biz>

View an overview movie showing FamViewer's main features at

<http://www.astersoftware.biz/screencasts.html>

If you have an iPhone or Ipod touch, you may want to check this product out. If you have another brand of smart phone, check with your own service provider to see if they have any genealogical "app" for your particular smart phone.

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