

May 11, 2010 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our May 11, 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, May 18, 2010. The program for the evening is titled **“In Search of French Canadians in America and Canada”**. The speaker for the evening will be Michelle Bray Wilson.

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.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS THE LAST PROGRAM OF THE 2009-2010 SEASON FOR THE SOCIETY. THE NEXT PROGRAM OF THE SOCIETY WILL TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER 2010.

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, May 19, 2010. The program scheduled for that evening is **“American Geographical Society Maps”**. The speaker for the program will be Jovanka Ristic.

Please note that meetings take place at the Wheaton Public Library in Wheaton, IL. The address of the library is 225 Cross St. The meeting room opens at 6:30 PM. Refreshments are available at that time. The program starts at 7 PM and will conclude by no later than 9 PM.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS THE LAST PROGRAM OF THE 2009-2010 SEASON FOR THE SOCIETY. THE NEXT PROGRAM OF THE SOCIETY WILL TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER 2010.

You may visit the society's web page at:

www.dcg.org

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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, May 15, 2010 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is "**A Gift That Money Can't Buy**". The speaker for the program will be Jeffrey Bockman, the author of the book that will be discussed.

You may visit the organization web page 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 – ANCESTRY MAGAZINE OUT OF BUSINESS BUT ALL 25 YEARS OF MAGAZINE AVAILABLE FOR FREE FROM GOOGLE BOOKS

This bit of news was brought to my attention from the April 4, 2010 blog posting of Dick Eastman.

Last month I mentioned that after 25 great years of publications, Ancestry was ceasing publication stating that one contributing reason was the inability to attract enough advertising to cover costs. This bi-monthly genealogy magazine was one of the “rocks” in the genealogy publishing world. But even being one of the leaders was not enough to sustain continued operations.

But the loss of Ancestry for future new publications of its magazine is in a cruel way the “gain” for the rest of us. Why is it our “gain”? It is our gain because it has been announced that “all” of the magazines published over the last 25 years are now available to look at for “free” on the Internet.

You can select one magazine and look through it online just as if you had it in front of you. You can zoom in and zoom out. You can search the magazine for terms you seek or topics of note. There are hyperlinks in the magazine to allow you to move around it.

Another nice tool is the ability to search all of the issues at one time for any term you might think of. This is a great tool. If you get a hit, all of the magazines that contain the hit are presented to you. If you open up the magazine, the hits are highlighted wherever they are contained in the magazine. Pretty nice! Because I research Polish ancestry, I tried using the term “polish” and got a variety of hits. Your term will be found in anything in the magazine, including advertisements. So you might find yourself skipping through these advertisements.

One thing that I noticed is that it appears you cannot download the magazine to your own computer. It looks like you can download images or pages but I did not see the capability to readily download the entire magazine as a PDF to your own computer. I will keep experimenting to see if this is possible.

To access this material you will need to use the following link that gets you to Google Books. The link address is:

<http://books.google.com/books/serial/FTgEAAAAMBAJ?rview=1&lr=&sa=N&start=0>

Don't forget to bookmark this address in your browser.

This is a potentially great resource to tap into for all of the articles that have been written over a 25 year period. All of the magazines can be searched with one command. Perhaps lurking in one of the issues is a topic that was covered that ties in directly to your own research. Google Books provides a lot of ways for you to look through the material. Learn the various tools they have to meander yourself through this material. I think you will enjoy what is available to you.

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Handout #6 – DIRE FUTURE SIGN OF THE TIMES MAY RESTRICT ABILITY TO ACCESS GENEALOGICAL DATA

This is from a blog posting from Dick Eastman dated April 12, 2010.

The state of Maine has just passed legislation that is now going access to vital record data for a longer period of time and make researchers obtain research identification cards in order to access the data that has had more restrictions applied to it.

Maine has passed legislation that will restrict the release of civil birth, marriage and death data for 100 years.

On the surface this seems dire. However, some amendments were created for the final bill that makes the researching process still possible but with a few hoops to jump through.

Before being passed, the bill was amended with: "Custodians of certificates and records of birth, marriage and death may permit inspection of records by, and issue non-certified copies to, **researchers engaged in genealogical research who hold researcher identification cards**, as specified by rule adopted by the department."

Dick Eastman, in his blog, indicated that a researcher would apply for a research card that would be good to use for up to one year. A renewal of the card will have to take place as needed thereafter in order to have research access privileges to the data. Dick Eastman did not indicate whether there would be a fee for the research card.

Could we as researchers be in for a much more restricted access to data that today we take for granted? Let us hope not, but if Maine can impose more restrictions on accessing records, then other states may certainly follow suit. We are becoming more privacy concerned than ever and legislators may respond to the demands of constituents to tighten access to this public material to protect privacy.

Let's hope that researchers will still be given some ability to access this material even if it means obtaining some state sanctioned research card that could turn out to be a revenue source for our cash-strapped states.

You may want to increase the pace of your own research efforts before more and more states tighten up access to these records.

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Handout #7 – IMMIGRATION ALTERNATIVES AND WORKAROUNDS

I found this information from the January-March 2010 issue of NGS Magazine from an article titled "Immigration Alternatives".

For those of you doing Passenger Research, here are some tips to keep in mind if you are not having any luck finding the elusive record.

Maybe your ancestor arrived through the port of New York. Maybe you are making the mistake of assuming that means Ellis Island. When you search Ellis Island online you find nothing. Don't forget that you need to have an idea of the ancestor's arrival year. Ellis Island is not the total database for this information. Ellis Island should be searched when your ancestor arrived between 1892 to 1897 and 1900 to 1924. Prior to 1892 they may have arrived through New York but online records are available through Castle Garden. You can access Castle Garden at www.castlegarden.org. You can access Ellis Island data at www.ellislandrecords.org.

Don't forget that the port of New York represented only about 50% of our ancestors' arrival port. Don't forget about Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New Orleans, Galveston or even a West Coast arrival at San Francisco. Unfortunately, these ports do not have their data online like for the port of New York. So you will have to work with microfilms and some of the Soundex data available on film. Films can be gotten from the Family History Library or from the National Archives.

Also don't forget an arrival through Canada and subsequent border crossing to the U.S. via St. Albans, Vermont from 1895 to 1924. Again, this data is available on microfilms from the Family History Library.

Still can't find arrivals? Don't forget to check out passenger departures from points overseas. There is a record for both leaving and arriving. Consider ports like Hamburg, Bremen, Liverpool, Marseilles. Hamburg passenger records are available online through Ancestry.com but they are in German. Bremen records were destroyed and very few are available. Those that are available are more recent in time rather than farther back in time. For British passenger records try the online source at www.findmypast.co.uk/migration.jsp. You will be able to search the index but you will have to pay to take a complete look at the data found. Check the Family History Library for other European port records. Remember, you may have to work harder looking at films for the data. All data is not online.

Take a look at the full article for other pieces of helpful tips. Passenger research on microfilm can be difficult at best. You may want to switch your efforts into something that might be more productive. But if you are committed to this effort, then give it a try and put on your "patience" face.

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Handout #8 – DON'T FORGET TO BACK UP YOUR DATA

I found this information from the January-March 2010 issue of NGS Magazine from an article titled "Preserving Your Digital Legacy: Backing Up Your Data".

I can't stress enough how important it is to have backup copies of your digital research created and securely stored away. But just as important is to consider backup material of all of the paper documents you may have for which you have never yet digitized the material. That means you need to consider making paper copies of all of these documents. They need to be stored in a location outside of your own home. What better place than to share these papers with a fellow family researcher! Now is the time to digitize this material.

The author also notes to make a backup "Local" copy. Burn your files to a CD or DVD. Copy them to an external hard drive. Keep this as a readily accessible copy to use and restore from if your main computer has a problem. I would also keep a copy of this "media" off-site also, so you can retrieve it should a larger catastrophe happen.

The author mentions the following resources to consider if you want to upload data online:

- Carbonite at www.carbonite.com. You can upload unlimited data for \$54.95 per year. It applies to both Windows and Macintosh. This is on an individual computer basis.
- iDrive at www.idrive.com. You can upload 2 GB for free, 150 GB for \$49.50 per year or 500 GB for \$149.50 per year. As you see, there are limits on the amount of data you can upload. It is also for Windows and the Mac. If you took the 150 GB package, it limits you to one computer. If you took the 500 GB package, you can have multiple computers to upload from.
- Memopal at www.memopal.com. You can upload 3 GB for free or 200 GB for \$49 per year. You cannot upload unlimited amounts of data. It applies to Windows and the Mac. You can upload from unlimited numbers of computers.
- Mozy at www.mozy.com. You can upload 2 GB for free or upload unlimited amounts of data for \$59.40 per year. The cost limits you to one computer per year at the amount noted. The service applies to Windows or the Mac.
- SOS Backup at www.sosonlinebackup.com. You can get 2 GB for \$19.95 per year, 5GB for \$29.95 per year or 15 GB for \$49.95 per year. You do have limits on the amount of data uploaded. You can upload data from multiple computers. It applies to Windows only.

Make sure all of your hard work does not go for naught. There is no excuse today with so many options available to back up your material. Don't take a chance on losing everything!

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Handout #9 – INTERNET INDEXING; CONSIDER RESEARCHING THE ORIGINAL DATA

The following topic of interest originated from an article in the most recent issue of Avotaynu that was dated Winter 2009. The article title was "Contemporary Topics in Genealogy: A Conversation with Professor Thomas Jones".

The first question posed by the interviewer was: *"You have said that the Internet poses some important challenges for genealogists. What do you mean?"*

The professor then went on to explain how the internet data can become a double edged sword for the researcher.

You can encounter many possible problems if you simply believe an online index is "fail proof".

- Omissions can be common.
- Misspellings are frequent.
- Unreadable source data converts to inaccurate indices which convert to an inability to find what we are looking for.

The index and the search of the index only produce that one result. Looking at the entirety of the material either through browsing the database, if possible, or going to peruse the entirety of the original source may be the best way to find not only what you are looking for but to gain a better "big picture" image of all of the data.

The professor used a "marriage record" search as an example when results did not appear. Problems with the index leading to the inability to discover data may have been caused by:

- Perhaps the indexer or database creator may have overlooked, misread, or mistyped the names of the party we seek.
- Maybe the index is only a "partial" index.
- Maybe the data is only a part of the total amount of data that actually exists.

The data itself needs to be studied and understood as to what is contained in the index. A good data base should have a good detailed description identifying what is contained in the material that is searchable in comparison to the total amount of "raw" data that was accessed. The marriage you seek may be in a year that was not included in the project. But you can find it by looking at the entirety of the raw material.

To quote the professor: "People have difficulty seeing what is not there, however, especially when excited about what they do see". The internet does not always give you the "bigger picture" that can be more helpful to your research. You need to create the bigger picture with onsite research or going back to full sets of records.

There may be much more information contained in the original record than is presented in the "database" record. A good database description should identify what is contained in the original records that are not included in the online database.

Don't believe the database is perfect. Check what else may exist in the original records. If you find some good information in any "hits" you discover, consider going back to the original for information not included. If you don't get any "hits", still consider going back to the original source of data to account for any "indexing" errors.

This article is worth reading in its entirety because it can provide you with the insights needed to help you understand why you are not discovering ancestor information when you believe it should be there for sure.

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Handout #10 – ILLINOIS DIGITAL ARCHIVES

You may want to bookmark the site for the Illinois Digital Archives. This came to my attention from one of our own librarians who routinely posts information on websites of note. You can find it at:

www.idaillinois.org

This looks to a very good all-in-one site for accessing digital material for your ancestors if they had a presence in Illinois.

The site is set up in a manner that allows you to browse through material that is organized by collections or to search for material throughout the entire collection. I like the ability to just browse to get a better “lay of the land” view of what is contained. When you browse the subjects you will find some of the following:

- Abraham Lincoln Documents
- Illinois and the Civil War Documents
- Illinois State Highway Maps
- Oak Ridge Cemetery Interment Records
- World War I Documents

Scattered throughout this initial series of digitized material you will even see material on some of the towns in Illinois and what has been digitized related to the towns. Some towns I saw are St. Charles, Elmwood Park, Henderson County, Champaign County and others.

There is a very nice link through this site to get you to the “Digital Past”. Within the Digital Past you can browse through material that is contained by the city or town of your interest of your choice. So if you have ancestors connected to Cary, IL, you can select Cary, IL and either browse through the material available for Cary, IL or you can enter search terms to search through the material for the town of your choice. In the list of towns, you will see cities that are definitely not Illinois cities but the material contained in this digital collection has material that may apply to this “foreign city”. For example, I saw the city of Santa Barbara listed. When you click on the link, it leads you to a postcard of a restaurant in this city that someone in Illinois must have been able to upload to the Illinois Digital Archives.

There is also a nice feature of being able to browse information under the category “Proper Name”. I looked through this for some relatives and I actually found some WW II photos of some relatives in the military uniforms as well as finding some photographed headstones of an aunt and an uncle of mine. Very nice!

I also see that the site has an internal link to a subject on “Guidelines for Images”. When I looked at this part of the site, it offered some great insights into the requirements to upload digital material to the Illinois Digital Archives. This is a nice guide that you yourself can consider for your own digitization of your personal material. You can go directly to this guide at www.idaillinois.org/guidelines.html.

There is a great deal of information contained here. Browsing through lists of towns and names is a very nice feature. This is especially nice if your search term for a

name or town does not fit what is in the database. You might discover an ancestor in this material with a spelling other than what you think. This is a nice feature of being able to "browse" the names and not just search the names.

I definitely think this is a site worth visiting especially if your research has any connection to anything related to "Illinois". I think you will like it. You may have a happy discovery as I did in finding some relatives pictures going back to the WW II era!

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