

June 8, 2010 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our June 8, 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"!

++++
++++

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!

++++
++++

Handout #2 – NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COUNCIL OF GENEALOGISTS ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2010

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists will take place on Tuesday evening, September 21, 2010. The program for the evening is titled **“To Be Determined”**. The speaker for the evening will be To Be Determined.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO MEETINGS OF THIS SOCIETY DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST.

I will be checking the society web page during these months and will be looking for when the new schedule of programs for 2010-2011 becomes available

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.

You may visit the society web page at for any further details on the program as well as on the society:

www.NWSCG.com

++++
++++

Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT PROGRAM ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, September 15, 2010. The program scheduled for that evening is **“To Be Determined”**. The speaker for the program will be To Be Determined.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO MEETINGS OF THIS SOCIETY DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST.

I will be checking the society web page during these months and will be looking for when the new schedule of programs for 2010-2011 becomes available

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.

You may visit the society's web page at:

www.dcgs.org

++++
++++

Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON JUNE 19, 2010

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, June 19, 2010 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is " **Before You Croak: Saving Your Genealogical Collection for Posterity**". The speaker for the program will be Ted L. Bartlett.

I like the irreverent title of the program! He does not mince words!

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.

++++
++++

Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON JULY 13, 2010

The next genealogy program of the Schaumburg Township District Library will take place on Tuesday evening, July 13, 2010 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 7:30 PM. The program scheduled for this evening is **"Getting the Most Out of Heritage Quest"**. The speaker for the program will be Kristen Newton Smith.

You may visit the library's web page at:

www.stdl.org

to view a Calendar of Events section of the library web page.

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.

Heritage Quest is a great resource to do your research both onsite at a library or offsite from home. This is a "meat and potatoes" resource that most public libraries offer. Through Heritage Quest, you can access Census material from 1790 to 1930. There are two caveats with this data. The first is that the data is indexed by "head of household" name and is thus **NOT** an all-name index. Secondly, very little data for the 1930 census is contained within Heritage Quest. Though these sound like drawbacks, I can assure you that being able to access this product from home through the library that issued you your library card far outweighs any drawbacks.

In addition to the Census data, you can also access the following resources through Heritage Quest:

- Search Books
- Search PERSI (Periodical Source Index)
- Search Revolutionary War Material
- Search Freedmen's Bank Material
- Search U.S. Serial Set for Memorials, Petitions and Private Relief Actions of the U.S. Congress

Kristen is a librarian with the Algonquin Area Public Library District and has presented this program and other genealogical programs through "workshops" at her library.

We look forward to hearing from Kristen and learning how to best use Heritage Quest as a productive resource to help us with our own genealogical efforts.

++++
++++

Handout #6 – POPULARITY OF YOUR SURNAME ON PUBLICPROFILER.ORG

The following was noticed in the Dick Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter dated May 5, 2010.

Do you want to see how popular your last name is and the distribution of it throughout the world? Then visit the web site known as Public Profiler at:

www.publicprofiler.org/worldnames

Enter in the "Search" box on the top the Surname of interest to you and see where and how popular the name is by percent of the name as it appears within the general population of the area being measured.

Results are given to you by:

- Country
- Region
- City

I used my last name KIERNA and discovered that Poland had the most KIERNA names measured by "Frequency Per Million (FPM)" of the population of Poland. The number shown was .75. The United States was next with .16 FPM followed by France with .05 FPM and the United Kingdom with .02 FPM. I was aware of the connection with Poland and the United States, but am a little puzzled and unsure of the results for France and the United Kingdom.

You will also obtain results by Region, which for KIERNA gave me results as "Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Poland", "Illinois, United States", "Wisconsin, United States" etc. Cities are also shown in order of FPM.

An interesting tease was that each result is a link. I thought that by using the link I might actually see the names of the people indicated with my last name KIERNA. Sorry! No such luck. The link only shows you popular "Forenames" and "Surnames" for the area associated with the link. Darn!! So I may now know that "Maria", "Krzystof", "Andrzy" are popular forenames in Poland as well as knowing what the popular Surnames are in Poland, but I won't know much more of any specific people named KIERNA in the regions shown.

This is a fun little site for searching uncommon names. It might open up your eyes to an area of the world that a surname of yours exists that perhaps you did not know. You would have to use other resources for that particular area to uncover your surnames. You can probably use the equivalent of "white page" phone directories to uncover these names.

Don't expect miracles, but give it a try for fun!

++++
++++

Handout #7 – ONLINE CLASSES WITH PHAROS FOR ENGLISH/UNITED KINGDOM GENEALOGY

The following was noticed in the Dick Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter dated May 17, 2010.

Are you researching English ancestry? Do you feel you could become a better English researcher? Then consider this online series of classes to participate in with a company called Pharos in conjunction with The Society of Genealogists.

Following successful pilot courses last year, the Society and Pharos have teamed up to make available a full course of instruction, with assessment, to any interested genealogist anywhere in the world. First modules in the Skills and Strategies program will be offered in September 2010. It will be possible to complete all 10 modules in an 18 month period.

The modules for this program are listed here in alphabetical order:

- Apprenticeships & Guilds
- Employment Records
- Lists & Sources from Georgian England
- Migration in the British Isles
- Military Ancestors
- Nonconformity in England and Wales
- The Poor, the Parish and the Workhouse
- Victorian Crime & Punishment
- Wills and Administrations
- 17th Century Sources

The cost for all 10 modules is 450 pounds or approximately \$650. This is not inexpensive but it does appear to be a very in-depth program in the above areas of English genealogy. Visit the web site to see many other courses individually available.

Students may, alternatively, choose not to have work assessed and to take any arrangement of individual topics. Courses taken individually without assessment cost less.

This is definitely not a beginner’s introductory set of courses. At least two years of English genealogical research experience is needed in order to successfully participate in this program.

To find out more or sign up for this great learning opportunity, visit www.pharostutors.com. Information about the course and a link for bookings can also be found on the Society of Genealogists’ website at www.sog.org.uk

++++
++++

Handout #8 – INSTANT GRATIFICATION AND FINDING OBITS ONLINE

The following information was discovered from an article titled "Instant Gratification and Finding Obits Online" in the April/May 2010, Volume 5, Number 1 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I am a very big fan of researching obituaries because so much family association information can be contained in a small amount of words.

The author does a very good job in describing the traditional resource of finding newspapers. Today, those newspapers are being digitized at an incredible rate. There are still many more years to complete the task, but digitized newspapers online are becoming the "go to" source for genealogists searching for obituaries of their ancestors. We have come a long way when the microfilm copies of these newspapers were the researcher's first choice to do research. It was timely and could certainly make you dizzy and queasy as you looked at the film roll past you. It could have taken us weeks to find our results, but now, we may luckily discover the material online and available for a subscription fee or available through our own library with no fee at all directly charged to us.

The author also points out that there is some bad that comes with digitization. Scanning is done through an OCR (Optical Character Recognition) process in which quality is at the mercy of the scanning machine, the OCR software and the physical attributes of the paper itself as to ink and transparency and just overall deteriorated condition of the paper itself. All of the above combinations may produce a "high" error rate that we are probably willing to accept rather than have no digitized and indexed material. I can't tell you how many databases that I have searched for the name KIERNA only to discover many of the "hits" to actually be for the printed image of the name KIERNAN. Close, but no cigar! It is obvious that the paper has the name KIERNAN clearly printed to read by the eye, but the scanning software and indexing process chose to identify that piece of data as KIERNA. So I have to ignore it on my list of results that initially excited me as to a possible new discovery.

So you get the picture of the "Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" as to potential erroneous results. Nonetheless, as I said earlier, it is far better to have these quirky errors than to have nothing digitized.

The author provides a nice long list of web sites to visit and become familiar as sources of online obituary data.

Many but not all of the sites listed in the article are:

NewspaperARCHIVE.com (Subscription site), free searches) @
www.newspaperarchive.com

Genealogybank.com – America's Obituaries 1977 to Current
(Subscription site, free searches) @
www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/obituaries.html

Obituary Central (free site) @ www.obitcentral.com

Ancestor Hunt – Obituary Search Engines and Indexes at
Libraries, Universities and Societies (free site) @
www.ancestorhunt.com/obituary_search.htm

Newspaper Obituaries on the Web – from the Genealogy
Register (free site) @ www.newspaperobituaries.net

The article provides many more sites to check out, some that are also specific to individual states. Take a look at the entire article for many more sites to help you in your online obituary searching.

Our library subscribes to “America’s Obituaries”. This data can be accessed from within our library by any user or it can be accessed from home by those who have been issued a Schaumburg Township District Library Picture ID Card. Give this resource a try.

++++
++++

Handout #9 – NEW BETA TEST WEBSITE FOR FAMILYSEARCH

I noticed the following information mentioned in the recent June 2010, Volume 42, Number 11 issue of the Newsletter of the Chicago Genealogical Society.

You are hopefully familiar with the Mormon digitization process of their films and the Pilot Project of that material that you can search. Apparently, the Mormons have a beta site that is available that may be the look of the “future” Pilot Project you can use today from their web site.

Please take a look at:

<http://beta.familysearch.org>

It will take you to a site that has the embedded URL component name of “fsbeta”, but it is the site you want to look at.

At the beta site you will see the following main links of information you can access:

- Home
- Learn
- Library
- Indexing
- Blog

All of the above are contained in some fashion at the main LDS site we visit today at www.familysearch.org. The beta site presents the information in more clean appearance, without having many tabs of information to select from. Results are presented in a series of long lists. The results can be filtered down by record category such as “census”, “births” etc. I highly recommend using this filter process to get to the material you seek quicker rather than scrolling down large lists of data. You also have a nice convenient “boxed area” to “refine” your search if it appears what you received is not to your liking or contains too much. There is also an “Advanced Search” setting that allows you to enter many more search terms to filter down your results even more. Be careful with this capability. If any of the many search terms you put in is not contained in the data, you will not get any results. Add to the advance terms field by field and keep looking at the results you get with each addition.

The Indexing link off of the main page provides you with information about the LDS Indexing Project. It seeks more volunteers to participate and actually do the indexing. There is good information for you to read and to consider participating with the project. The blog seems to indicate that there were approximately 87,000 volunteer indexers transcribing material from the Mormons.

The Blog link does appear to show that there is no current material being posted. The most current blog archives seem to show postings only through February 2009. That is sad because the blog they have could surely be a very valuable tool in providing current genealogical information in general and about the indexing project. The blog also makes note that the LDS is on Twitter and Facebook. Maybe more is being posted there.

I would definitely take a look at this "beta" web site if in fact it will become the "appearance" of the LDS FamilySearch site of the future. See what you think of this "beta" site.

++++
++++

Handout #10 – EUROPEANS BUILD DIGITAL TIME MACHINE?

I found this whimsical piece of information from the May 18, 2010 posting on Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Blog.

The point of the article posted by Dick Eastman alludes to the concerns of accessing digital data in the future simply because the "keys" and "readers" of today will not be the readers and keys of the future to unlock digital data. Isn't it amazing that a physical book on a physical shelf will be able to be accessed, read and understood but a digital file of the same material may unexpectedly be locked permanently in the future simply because the digital format of today may not be that of tomorrow, thus locking out access to the material.

So how will we be able to assure that valuable material will always be able to be accessed? PC Magazine reports that European researchers have deposited a "digital genome" in a secret bunker deep in the Swiss Alps. Accompanied by burly security guards in black uniforms, scientists carried a time capsule through a labyrinth of tunnels and five security zones to a vault near the slopes of chic ski resort Gstaad.

The huge collection of digital data will provide the blueprint for future generations to read data stored using defunct technology. The sealed box containing the key to unpick defunct digital formats will be locked away for the next quarter of a century behind a 3-1/2 ton door strong enough to resist nuclear attack at the data storage facility, known as the Swiss Fort Knox.

The capsule is the culmination of the four-year "Planets" project, which draws on the expertise of 16 European libraries, archives, and research institutions, to preserve the world's digital assets as hardware and software is superseded at a blistering pace. The project hopes to preserve "data DNA," the information and tools required to access and read historical digital material and prevent digital memory loss into the next century.

"Einstein's notebooks you can take down off the shelf and read them today. Roll forward 50 years and most of Stephen Hawking's notes will likely only be stored digitally and we might not be able to access them all," said the British Library's Adam Farquhar, one of two computer scientists and archivists entrusted with transferring the capsule.

Think of your own situation with VCR tapes, LP records, CDs, DVDs etc. Your original material may not be accessible if you do not have the "player" to access the material. It is up to you to have the "Player" or for you to transfer the material to a format that is currently readable by today's players. This puts you in a perpetual state of converting older media to current format for readability.

You can read more at <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2363904,00.asp>.

++++
++++