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

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our July 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 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

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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

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

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, July 17, 2010 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **" Copying and Scanning Documents and Photos"**. The speakers for the program will be Everett Butler and Byron Atkinson.

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 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON AUGUST 10, 2010

The next genealogy program of the Schaumburg Township District Library will take place on Tuesday evening, August 10, 2010 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 7:30 PM. The program scheduled for this evening is **"Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places – the Search For Marriage Records"**. The speaker for the program will be Ginger Frere.

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.

Marriage records are a great source of family information. You can obviously find information on the bride and groom that can especially lead to the discovery of a maiden name. But you can also be lucky enough to discover information on the parents of the bride and groom and the maiden name possibly of the bride's mother. Don't overlook the discovery of who the witnesses were for the event. This may lead you to discover siblings of the bride and groom which is not uncommon. And finally, you may discover the name of the church where the event occurred leading you to perhaps more information on the multi-generations of the family if the church was the church they attended over time. WOW! As you can see, marriage records can lead you to a great amount of valuable information.

Ginger is going to provide some insights on where to look for these valuable records that can really help you accelerate your research because so much information can be garnered from the simple marriage record.

Ginger Frere is a librarian, researcher and life-long Chicagoan. She assists genealogists in the Local and Family History section of the Newberry Library and also works as an independent researcher.

Ginger has previously presented programs at our library, all of which have left us with new tips to pursue in our own research. We look forward to another return visit to our library from Ginger.

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Handout #6 – 1901 IRISH CENSUS NOW ONLINE

The following was noticed in the Dick Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter dated June 3, 2010.

The earliest surviving complete Census of Ireland has been put online, giving access to more than 4.5 million records from 1901 for historians, genealogists and anyone curious about their family history. Some 850,000 households on the entire island were covered in the census, which was taken on the night of Sunday, March 31st, 1901.

Minister for Culture Mary Hanafin described the service as "an important and exciting day for people all over the world who want to trace their roots". She added: "In a world which is very troubled, people want to know where they are rooted and are anxious to know about their background and their heritage."

There are no further complete sets of records to make available, as most of the census records from the 19th century have been destroyed. Those from the early part of the century were lost in a fire at the Public Records Office during the Civil War in 1922, while some later records were pulped because of a paper shortage during first World War.

The 1901 Census provide information about a household on a single sheet, covering the following categories: first name; surname; relation to head of family; religious profession; education; age; sex; occupation; marriage status; where born; if the individual spoke English, Irish or both and if the person had a disability.

You can read more by Paul Cullen published in the Irish Times web site at:

http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2010/0604/1224271820827.html

You can also go directly to the web site to take a look at the material and execute your searches. Visit the website at:

http://census.nationalarchives.ie

Believe it or not, there is **NO** fee to search and access the images. The website is full of historical material and tips on how to make your searches more productive. You can also access and search the 1911 Irish Census from this same site.

You can expect to find the following pieces of information within these census returns:

Name, age, sex, relationship to head of the household, religion, occupation, marital status, county or country of birth, individual's ability to read or write and ability to speak the Irish language, and whether deaf, dumb, blind, idiot, imbecile or lunatic.

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Handout #7 – CENSUSTAKING IS A HIGH RISK TEMPORARY JOB!

The following was noticed in the Dick Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter dated June 21, 2010.

The 2010 census takers have been shot at with pellet guns and hit by baseball bats. They have been confronted with pickaxes, crossbows and hammers. They've had lawn mowers pushed menacingly toward them and patio tables thrown their way. They have been nibbled by ducks, bitten by pit bulls and chased by packs of snarling dogs.

So far, the Census Bureau has tallied 379 incidents involving assaults or threats on the nation's 635,000 census workers, more than double the 181 recorded during the 2000 census. Weapons were used or threatened in a third of the cases.

You can read more in the Washington Post at

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/19/AR2010061901896.html?hpid=topnews

Some of the attacks elsewhere represent random violence, such as a robbery at knifepoint in Richmond, Va., and a carjacking in Connecticut. In some situations, the job turned unexpectedly dangerous, as for the Baltimore crew leader who was fatally shot seven times while sitting in his car and the Wisconsin census taker who knocked on the door of a man who tried to drag her into his apartment.

Other workers were beset by mean-tempered animals. Wendy Soto, who was knocking on doors in California, still can't move two fingers after being attacked by a pit bull that pushed open a security door.

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Handout #8 – 2ND PHASE OF WWW.IRISHGENEALOGY.IE TO BE LAUNCHED JUNE 16, 2010

The following was noticed in the Dick Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter dated June 15, 2010.

The second phase of genealogy website www.irishgenealogy.ie will be launched this week by the Archbishop of Dublin Dr John Neill and Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport Mary Hanafin.

According to an announcement posted at http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/news.html, the second phase involves the digitisation of church baptism, marriage and burial records from pre-1900 to be added for Dublin City, Carlow, Cork (City and West Cork) and Kerry. The launch will take place on Wednesday 16 June 2010 at 6.00pm in St Werburgh's Church, Werburgh Street, Dublin 8.

The www.irishgenealogy.ie website allows the public to view over 1,300 million pre-1900 Church records from Kerry and Dublin city free of charge.

A step-by-step guide to exploring your family history is provided on www.irishgenealogy.ie, which follows on from work achieved by Irish Genealogy Limited (IGL).

The material at the site appears to be very well organized. You can find some good "How To" research information if you are new to doing Irish research. You will also find some good material on planning to visit Ireland to do some Irish research. They also have a very interesting "Sign Post" search consisting of about 3.2 million records. The site says this is a good place to start if you do not know what county your Irish ancestor may have come from. You can find some good material here in Church Records, Census Records, Griffith Valuation Records and other categories. If you enter in a surname spelled as you know it, you will also be presented with variations of the surname contained in the databases. This is a nice feature so you can see variations that perhaps you never even thought of.

There is a separate tab on the main page to "Search Church Records". There is good background information on exactly what is contained there and how best to search the material. I especially like the nice "Browse" feature that allows you to browse the variety of databases of material as well as browse through the data contained therin. Sometimes this helps you better understand what other family names may be contained in the data that may turn out to be other related ancestors that you may never have thought to search. Always browse through material when it is able to be browsed. It allows you to get a better feel for the material.

More and more material is planned to be added over time. They do provide insights as to what is to come online in the future.

Don't pass this site up if you have Irish ancestry that contains helpful background information as well as the data itself.

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Handout #9 – BROWSING FOR CLUES

I noticed the following information mentioned in the recent June/July 2010, Volume 5, Number 2 issue of Internet Genealogy.

A good article in this issue is one titled "Browsing for Clues". This article is very helpful to researchers because it shows the dilemma we all face in trying to use the "search" capability of a database only to discover that no matter how many surname variations we might use, we still cannot find who we are looking for, generally due to a transcription error in the index creation process.

The article notes that it is important to determine if the database you are using is one in which you can "browse" through the entries. The author was looking for the surname BOOMS. The database was one that the author could browse through the entries. Her strategy was to look through the entries beginning with letter "B" for a few years before the date she thought she was seeking and for a few years after the date. Obviously, this can be and was a tedious process. But when you realize that the creative surname search terms you use proves fruitless, then it comes time to roll up your sleeves and review the original images. One caveat, this will work if the first letter of the surname you seek is still entered into the database correctly. If the surname you seek starts with a "B" but it has already been mis-indexed perhaps starting with an "R", then you will still be hopelessly lost unless you chose to browse the entirety of the database and not just the specific first letter of the surname.

The author was lucky in her search. The first letter of the surname had not been mis-transcribed. Tediously reviewing under the letter "B" for BOOMS, she was actually able to discover the ancestor she sought. The name in fact was mis-indexed. Instead of being correctly spelled in the index as BOOMS, she discovered her ancestor under the mis-indexed identification of BOONER. Because she was familiar with who she was looking for, the image name to her was easily seen as BOOMS and not BOONER. But to a volunteer indexer, they can only do the best they can interpreting what they see.

If you can't find someone no matter how you change the name for searching, see if you can browse the database image by image under the first letter of the surname you seek. You will have enough background information to know that if you see something that looks promising, it probably is the record you seek.

Take a look at the short article in its entirety. Tedious though it may be, consider browsing through databases if you can looking for the elusive ancestor rather than just trying to search it with a name you may never match to an incorrectly mis-indexed name in the database.

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Handout #10 – USING CORONOER'S RECORDS

I noticed the following information mentioned in the recent May/June 2010, Volume 14, Number 5 issue of Family Chronicle.

I thought that a very interesting article in this issue is one titled "Cause of Death: Using Coroner's Records". Tapping into a resource like this may uncover a goldmine of information on an ancestor that may have met their death in a way that led to an investigation by a coroner or medical examiner.

A coroner is a public official whose primary function is to investigate by inquest any death thought to be of other than natural causes or occur under unusual circumstances. The coroner often becomes involved by police request or even by a doctor who may deem a death unusual requiring further investigation. The coroner may then determine that an autopsy of the deceased is required after initial investigation. An inquest may be held to learn the facts of the death, not to pass judgment on who was to blame.

The author noted that a good book to use as a resource to better understand the position of coroner and the role they play is one titled **Deadhouse: Life in a Coroner's Office** by John Temple. The author also notes that there is an online blog titled "Coroner's Stories" that you can reach at www.coronerstories.com.

Coroner records can be found at the level of a city or a county or even a state. The majority of coroner's positions are associated with county government. Do your searching through Google and use such terms as "Coroner" and the name of the state or county of your interest. In my own personal research I have utilized the Cook County Coroner's Records from 1872 to 1911 that can be found online from the Illinois Secretary of State website. The direct address to this database can be found at:

www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/cookinqt.html

Within a Coroner's Case File you may find the following categories of records:

- Affidavit
- Inquisition Verdict Form (rarely found)
- Coroner's Jury Report or Verdict
- Request from a Hospital to a Coroner to hold an inquest
- Proof of Identity
- Press Report
- Testimony Before Coroner and Jury
- Description of Occurrence
- Other Reports (Necrology, Pathology, Police, Toxicology)

The reports above can vary by jurisdiction. Some may have most of them, some very little, some may be unique to the jurisdiction. The article mentioned some links to some jurisdictions from which Coroner's data may be obtained. Some of the links mentioned are:

- Chester County, Pennsylvania Archives and Coroner's Records @ http://dsf.chesco.org/archives/site/default.asp
- City of London Coroner's Inquests @ www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/corporation
- Vermillion County Illinois Index to Coroner's Inquests, 1908-1956 @ www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/vermcor.html

My own research experience indicated you can search the data online by Surname to determine if perhaps the data is for an ancestor. You will still have to contact the agency to obtain copies of the actual reports associated with the case. That added material may better help you determine if in the fact the coroner case was for your ancestor. Common surnames may make it difficult for you to easily determine if the name in the index is for your ancestor. So do not expect to be able to see the full report online.

Be sure to utilize newspaper articles and research on any of your ancestors for what may sound like an unusual death. Use that "hint" to take it a step farther to see if a Coroner's Inquest was conducted on this deceased ancestor. The results could be fascinating and maybe even a little "gorey" depending on the cause of death, but a real researcher will be able to work past this aspect and uncover much more on an ancestor.

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