

## September 14, 2010 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our September 14, 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](http://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](http://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 find 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 **“Family History Research in Illinois & Wisconsin”**. The speaker for the evening will be Maureen Brady.

Maureen is a wonderful speaker on all aspects of genealogy. If your focus on genealogical research covers these two states, you may want to set some time aside and attend this program. I noticed that the society has not yet posted the details of the program at their website. However, they did send me a program notice for the program which I converted to a PDF file and have included that in a blog posting of their upcoming program at my blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>.

Check out the details of this upcoming program at my blog posting for the program. I am sure the NWSCG will be shortly updating their web site with the notice of this information.

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](http://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 **“The Ellis Island Experience”**. The speaker for the program will be Marian Schuetz.

**THIS SEPTEMBER PROGRAM ONLY FOR 2010-2011 WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE DUPAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM AT 102 E. WESLEY STREET IN WHEATON IN THE UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM.**

Marian presented this program at our program a few years ago. She does a wonderful presentation of the experience that our ancestors had when they arrived for processing at Ellis Island. For some immigrants, things went off without a hitch. For others, they may have been delayed while medical evaluations were done to allow entry. For a sad number, this was as far as they got into the United States. They were rejected and were deported back to their country of origin. Marian does a wonderful job in telling the story. If you have not seen this program, it may be worth marking it down on your calendar. I believe Marian will soon be ending her career as a genealogy speaker, so there is even more of a reason to see her before she stops presenting these informative programs.

Please note that following meetings will 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](http://www.dcgs.org)

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**Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2010**

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, September 18, 2010 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is " **Compiling Your Medical Family Tree**". The speaker for the program will be Marsha Peterson-Maass.

Compiling your Medical Family Tree might be easier than you think --- in fact most genealogists are surprised to discover that they already possess most of the skills and possibly even the records necessary to do so! This lively talk will give you an understanding of what's crucial in compiling a MFT chart and Predisposition Results Sheet plus explaining the tools and computerized resources you'll want to use. This could be one of the most valuable gifts of "family" information you ever give to yourself, your children, and other relatives.

Marsha will also be selling her "Medical Family Tree Workbook: The simple way to compile and understand your family health history" and other textbooks at the lecture for the discounted price of \$20 (retail price \$24.99).

You may visit the organization web page at:

[www.CAGGNI.org](http://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 OCTOBER 12, 2010

The next genealogy program of the Schaumburg Township District Library will take place on Tuesday evening, October 12, 2010 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 7:30 PM. The program scheduled for this evening is **"Social Security Death Index (SSDI) – New Things to Know"**.

You may visit the library's web page at:

[www.stdl.org](http://www.stdl.org)

to view a Calendar of Events section of the library web page for this program and for many more non-genealogical programs offered by our library.

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.

Larry was originally scheduled in February 2010 to present this program but unfortunately "Mother Nature" was not cooperative. On that day we had a very bad snowstorm that started early and went through the night. We wisely cancelled that evening program due to the large amount of snow. So this program is the "make-up" for the cancelled February 2010 program.

There are at least seven Social Security Death Indexes available online. Although they all originate from the same database, the Social Security Administration's Death Master File, they inexplicably do not all provide the same information. This presentation is a tour of the online databases, highlighting the different features of each.

The SSDI is one of the first and frequently visited sites in our genealogy research. It will show you those who have recently passed away and provide you with some tidbits of information to pursue on possibly starting to connect "backwards" in your line from the deceased you see in the SSDI going back in time. Hopefully, the surname you seek in the SSDI is not too common. You can use the multiplicity of searching on the SSDI to narrow down your results if you know some information concerning a relative you seek that has passed away.

Visit the SSDI frequently to see if any new additions have been made since you last visited. Ancestry.com and RootsWeb.com have SSDI data bases on their sites. At RootsWeb it is free to search.

Larry is a Minnesota native, who settled in the Chicago suburbs 20 years ago. He is 15 year member of CAGG-NI (the Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois), and has served as its President, as well as the Chair of the Program, Publicity and Membership Committees.

He started researching his family in 1973, after he first heard the legend that John Philip Sousa was a cousin of his German great-grandmother (a story he has not yet been able to substantiate).

He and his wife have four children and two grandchildren. He fondly hopes that someday someone in his immediate family will appreciate all the work that he has done on the family tree.

We look forward to this topic and to see how we can best use the new parts of the SSDI system.

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## Handout #6 – FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES (FGS) REINSTATES SOCIETY HALL SEARCHING

The following was noticed in the Dick Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter dated August 18, 2010.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation headquartered in Austin, Texas, announces the re-launch today of the popular Society Hall at its website at [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org).

Society Hall is an informational database accessible on the Internet that can be used to locate FGS member organizations in the U.S. and abroad. This includes genealogical societies, historical societies, family associations, libraries, archives, and genealogical vendors serving the genealogical community. Thousands of people searching for information about these organizations visit Society Hall each month.

Every FGS Member society has a Society Hall listing at [www.fgs.org/societyhall](http://www.fgs.org/societyhall) that it can edit and maintain. With the re-launching of the service, FGS has updated Society Hall listings with details from its member database. There are many fields that can be used to promote information about your organization. In addition to name, address, telephone and email, a link can be added to the organization's website. Membership benefits and dues can be listed, as can periodicals and publications, a calendar of events, services, and pioneer/certification programs.

You cannot believe how happy I am that this once existing feature from the FGS web site has been reinstated! You should also be happy that it is back.

Why?

Because this feature allows you to search for an existing genealogy society or historical society either by knowing the name or searching by name, or just searching within a given state to see what societies are participants with FGS and have their listing in the FGS database. I also now notice that in addition to hunting down a US society within a state, you can now also search for a society within Canada, Germany, Ireland or the United Kingdom.

When researching our ancestors, we want to be able to find societies that exist today that were in the geographic areas of where our ancestors lived. You can join these societies and use their resources to further your own research. They may also have done special projects local to the area of your ancestors that may also help your own research e.g. cemetery transcriptions, headstone photos, local history printed material for sale, ongoing current publications for members.

You always want to consider joining these societies from afar because they could be the pathway to research information on your ancestors formerly from the locale.

I used to use the feature all the time to help researchers try to uncover these societies that existed that could help them in their research. Now the functionality is back!

Check out the link above to the society database and use it for geographic areas of interest to you. Find the society and consider joining it for the variety of perks you can receive and the research help you can receive. The membership fees are generally very reasonable.

The society provides a good amount of information on the society. Contact information, publication information, membership fee information are many of the key items of information you can find about any society you find in the FGS database.

Give it a try. You will be happy with what you can find that may help your own research by joining these societies that are in the area of where your ancestors lived.

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## Handout #7 – GOOGLE EDITIONS

The following was noticed in the Dick Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter dated July 22, 2010.

Google is about to merge two success stories:

1. eBook readers are selling like hotcakes. The Amazon Kindle, Sony Digital Book Reader, Barnes & Noble Nook, Borders Books' Kobo, Apple iPhone, and the Apple iPad collectively have sold millions of units. Consumers are reading more and more books on screens as they find the ebooks are easy to use and easy to read. Even better, obtaining books in electronic format is usually cheaper than purchasing them on paper as the publishers save printing and distribution costs. Google has been watching these trends closely.
2. Google Books has become a very popular service, offering millions of books online that can be read on a PC, Macintosh, or Apple iPad. Some other ebook readers are also capable of displaying books found on Google Books.

Now Google is combining the two and will soon offer millions of new and old books in a format that can be read on any Windows computer, Macintosh computer, Sony Book Reader, Nook, Kobo, iPhone, iPad or probably any other ebook reader to be introduced in the future. Google plans to become a digital marketplace, acting as a limitless warehouse and storage system for digital books. The new service will be called **Google Editions**.

Google says that through its "Partnership Program," it has made deals with 35,000 publishers and has already scanned millions of titles. I have written several times about Google's scanning of out-of-copyright books. However, the present Google Books service scans books that are still under copyright protection and then allows you to preview up to 20 percent of the title you select. While you cannot read the entire book, you can read enough of it to decide if you want to purchase the book. Google then makes it easy for you to purchase the printed book. Of course, Google gets a commission if you purchase the book online. The new Google Editions will change all that, offering complete books for purchase, even if under copyright protection.

Google Editions will expand the present offerings. You will be able to download out-of-copyright books at no charge and read them on your ebook reader (except for the Kindle). In addition, you will be able to purchase newer books that are still under copyright protection. Those books will be in electronic format, and you will be able to read them immediately.

Tens of thousands of recently-published electronic books have been available in ebook formats for some time. What is new with Google Editions is that Google has gone back and scanned millions of in-copyright books from the 1930s through 1990s, negotiated agreements with the publishers, and is now making the books available electronically for quick and easy purchase in electronic format.

Google Editions may become the world's largest seller of e-books. That should be major competition for Amazon! Unlike Amazon, Google Editions will be selling new

books and even long-out-of-print books that were published 50, 75, or even 100 years ago.

Of course, this is going to become major competition for bookstores. The so-called "brick and mortar" bookstores are already reeling from competition from online stores. The specialty bookstores have been especially hard hit. For instance, many genealogy bookstores have already disappeared in the past ten years, and others reportedly are struggling. Having millions of books available instantly online will add even more competition for traditional book stores.

E-books and E-book readers are the growing wave of the future. Google has been making available to the genealogy community much material that is no longer in copyright protection. That is the great thing about resources we often want to tap into. They are often old and are no longer in copyright making them a perfect candidate for digitization from Google.

Now Google is taking that a step farther by including older material that is still under copyright because they have negotiated with publishers to be able to legally offer this material. Most E-books today are current publications. Google will be expanding that pool greatly by including these older books.

I also like the way Google plans on making their material in a format that allows the material to be read on any kind of device. So you will no longer be tethered to a specific kind of device.

Stay in touch with these developments through Google. I believe you will see Google Editions be for E-books what Ancestry and HeritageQuest were for Census images. They literally invented the new process for researchers to access digitized images of census data that was formerly only accessible via microfilms. The process literally changed overnight for accessing census data. Book access appears to be changing just as fast. Jump on the train, don't be left at the station!!

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## Handout #8 – NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (NGS) MAKES AVAILABLE CDs FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

Libraries in times past had been able to obtain audio taped media of the various large scale genealogical conferences that occurred within the United States. A company was in the business of making arrangements to obtain these taped sessions which libraries could purchase and make available to researchers within their collection. We still have some of these tapes, not CDs, still available in our collection.

Unfortunately, the company that originally created this material has ceased creating this material for the last few years. Consequently, libraries have not been able to obtain any more current material from recent conferences.

Happy days are back again! The National Genealogical Society is now offering through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor the ability to once again purchase audio recordings on CD of many program sessions that took place at the very large annual conferences of not only the National Genealogical Society (NGS), but also many other large scale genealogical conferences such as the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS).

You can look at all the sessions that are available to purchase from the vendor by looking at a spreadsheet or a PDF file of what is available. Each session will cost you \$12.00 plus \$1.50 in postage costs to ship the CD for the session.

The sessions originate from large scale genealogical conferences. You may have the ability to select from 100 to 150 individual programs that occurred within an annual conference of this size. So it may still cost you some significant dollars if there are many programs that interest you enough to obtain them on CD. Again, these are on CD and not as MP3 files that you can play on your MP3 players. You still have to play them on a CD player.

Check out the information that is related to this program being offered by the NGS. I am not able to give you a direct link to the location because the NGS uses frames at their web site. When I copied the web address it did not get me to the site of the vendor that is doing this work. On a step by step basis, here is how you get to the site:

- Go to the NGS web site at [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org)
- Look at the top set of tabs on the main page of the NGS and click on "Conferences and Events".
- Then on the left side of that page, click on the link that says "Annual Conference".
- Look on the left side of the page that opens up for Annual Conference and scroll down the list of items and select the one that says "Lectures on CD-ROM – Previous Conferences".
- Click on that link and it will take you to the vendor's web site that provides the material. The provider web name is "Jamb Inc." Their direct web site address is [www.jamb-inc.com](http://www.jamb-inc.com).
- Select "genealogy" from the Jamb web site and you should see all of the details from all of the conferences that are available to select individual programs.

This is a great service to see the light of day again. Speakers at these programs are the "best of the best". Your research needs may actually be linked to one of the program speakers and the topic they provide. If you were unable to attend this program you will have missed out on learning something to better advance your research. Now, you can look at all of the programs presented to see if there might be one or two that really match your research needs. If so, you can now order the lectures. It is somewhat pricey, but if your research can be advanced further by hearing someone that is considered an expert in the field, then it will have been worth the investment.

I do not believe that you will receive any copies of handouts that are associated with the program based on what I can determine from the NGS or the Jamb websites.. You will only receive the audio CD.

Take a look at this material from the pathway I describe above and then bookmark the site when you find it.

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## Handout #9 – FAMILY HISTORY FAUX PAUS

I noticed the following information mentioned in the recent July-August 2010, Volume 14, Number 6 issue of Family Chronicle.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled "Family History Faux Pas!". The author does a good job of identifying 25 items that we are often guilty of doing that become our own self-inflicted roadblocks that hinders the progress of our research. Each of the items mentioned has a large summary of what to do to improve the situation. I am unable to provide any in-depth analysis of each item, so I thought I would just mention the main points. The main points may even be explainable enough for you to note whether you are guilty of the action. "Faux Pas" points mentioned are:

- Not Talking To Relatives
- Practicing "Blind Faith"
- Relying Too Much on the Internet
- Not Using the Internet At All
- Failing to Document or Cite Sources
- Not Verifying Data
- Not Backing Up Your Data
- Making Assumptions
- Not Organizing Your Information
- Not Using Software
- Crossing the Pond Too Quickly
- Forgetting to Re-Evaluate
- Researching Just One Port of Arrival
- Neglecting to Network
- Not Joining At Least One Genealogy Society
- Skipping the Social History
- Not Expanding Your Search
- Giving Up Too Easily
- Paying Too Much to Get Information
- Relying on the Same Sources
- Missing Out On Search Engines
- Forgetting To Do Cluster Research
- Having a Closed Mind
- Putting Off Writing
- Not Having Fun

The list does make me think about self-created problems that can limit your research progress. Each of the above items has a fairly lengthy summary of what the author suggests we can do to improve the situation for that point. Are you stuck in the rut of only using Ancestry.com? How about digging into Heritage Quest? Are you using Google as a Search Engine? Don't forget to look at the results from Google in more than just the Web. Don't forget Images, News and Books. Are you just making random notes on paper of your research finds and having difficulties keeping track of all of this as your finds increase? Consider using lineage software to enter all of your discoveries. Everything will now be in one place for you to search and update. Are you still stuck on ancestor A based on your original discoveries from 4 years ago?

What about re-evaluating this ancestor A based on all of your added accumulation of facts about the ancestor?

I thought that this was a very good article that would be worth reading in its entirety and making a person copy for your future use.

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## Handout #10 – DISCOVERING LAND RECORDS

I noticed the following information mentioned in the recent July-August 2010, Volume 14, Number 6 issue of Family Chronicle.

I thought that a very good one page article in this issue is one titled “Overlooked and Underused”. The author points out resources that can help us with our research that may often be overlooked or underused. The five items mentioned are:

- **College Libraries** – they may abound in local history information, government documents and special collections, all of which may have a treasure trove of genealogical records. While many may all naturally be inclined to use our public libraries or known historical and genealogical libraries in our area, don't forget to consider college libraries, especially college libraries that may be in the geographic region of the ancestral research you are doing. All should have an internet presence on the web to be able to access their catalogs online to determine materials they have.
- **Funeral Home Records** – you may be able to find the person's date of birth and location if not previously known and a list of survivors and who even paid for the funeral.
- **Family History Centers** – each FHC local to the area may have unique records applicable to the area. These may be on microfiche for your use onsite. You may also discover volunteers at the FHC that may be extremely knowledgeable on many different genealogical topics. Granted, they still have to be their doing their work, but you may be able to tap into an excellent knowledge source on an area of genealogical interest of your own research.
- **Collateral Relatives** – be flexible on your direct lineage research, especially when you are having difficulties. Switch over to research the siblings of the direct ancestor of yours. You may find material within their records that might share a good amount of information on your direct line ancestor. Think of wills and probates of collateral lines that might mention your direct line ancestor within those documents.
- **Obscure Taxes** – tax rolls are a given of life, even for our ancestors. Anyone who owned real estate or personal property was subject to taxation. Taxes were creative from the perspective of government. Did they own a dog? Maybe there was a dog tax. Do some digging in the locale of your ancestral research to see what if any historical tax rolls exist for the area and the time of your interest.

This was only a one page article but it really did make think as to the possibility of these kind of records being investigated at a little more deeper level. Once you have investigated the major record groups such as census, land records, naturalization records etc. turn to some of the above to see if you have any other luck.

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