

## November 9, 2010 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our November 9, 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.stdlib.org](http://www.stdlib.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 NOVEMBER 16, 2010**

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists will take place on Tuesday evening, November 16, 2010. The program for the evening is titled **“He Took Her Name: Understanding German Farm Names”**. The speaker for the evening will be Teresa Steinkamp McMillin.

Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, is a professional genealogist who specializes in German and Midwest American research, as well as reading German script. She has been interested in genealogy since she was a child and has been actively researching her German ancestry for the past nine years, as well as her husband's Chicago Irish. She has attended the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research and has taken college-level German courses. She was the 2007 recipient of the National Genealogical Society's Home Study Course, which she has completed. Teresa is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the National Genealogical Society, as well as many local genealogical societies. She is the webmaster for the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists.

Meetings are held at the Forest View Educational Center in Arlington Heights. They begin at 7:00pm with a Round-Table discussion. They encourage people to bring their research problems, achievements or interesting tips to share with each other. The main portion of the meeting begins promptly at 7:30pm. Donations are always welcome!

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 NOVEMBER 17, 2010**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, November 17, 2010. The program scheduled for that evening is **“Writing Your Family History”**. The speaker for the program will be Steve ?.

Unfortunately, the DuPage County Genealogical Society did not have any overview summary of what is included in the presentation nor was there any biographical information about the speaker.

Please note that this meeting 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 for any recent announcements about this program 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 NOVEMBER 20, 2010**

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, November 20, 2010 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"Breaking Down a Brickwall: How I Found the Marriage Record of My Irish Great-Great Grandparents"**. The speaker for the program will be Nancy R. Thomas.

Nancy R. Thomas is currently the President of the DuPage County Genealogical Society, a position she also held 29 years ago. A retired Professor/Reference Librarian at the College of DuPage, Nancy has been searching for her ancestors and her husband's for over 30 years. She recently published *The Roeser Family: Ancestors and Descendants* for a family reunion using *Family Tree Maker 2010* software. A recent trip to the British Isles provided a chance to visit with a second cousin of her husband's, who lives in England, and exchange pedigree charts. Nancy and her husband have three daughters and four grandchildren.

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 DECEMBER 14, 2010

The next genealogy program of the Schaumburg Township District Library will take place on Tuesday evening, December 14, 2010 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 7:30 PM. There will be no speaker for this program. Instead, we will have our quarterly "Breakout Groups" as well as a "Beginner's Table".

After an initial introduction of new participants at the start of our normally scheduled meeting, we will establish our "breakout" groups at approximately 8:00 PM. We would have these breakout discussions from about 8:00 PM until about 9:30 PM. These groups would consist of about 7 to 8 participants. They would discuss some common topic of genealogy that interests them or from which they could learn even more to assist their research from sharing with others in the group and learning from others within the group.

The groups we previously tried seemed to work out quite well. I want to go with those same groups and am open to suggestions to attempt to add others or delete those that may not have a following.

I want to reconvene the following groups:

- Polish Researchers
- German Researchers
- Czech Researchers
- Irish Researchers
- Italian Researchers
- British Researchers
- Scandinavian Researchers
- Colonial Americans Researchers

I also will have a Beginner's Group that I will lead.

We will also have the computer in the room for anyone to access the internet.

I would also encourage participants to bring their personal laptop or netbook to these sessions and tap into the internet via our WiFi network. I saw many researchers doing this at our last breakout session and they found it very productive to access internet information while being in one of the groups if they wanted to show something to someone else at the table.

Please remember that the group's composition is based on the numbers that will participate. If only one person is present to participate in the Polish group, then we cannot have a Polish group that evening. I cannot guarantee there will be enough participants to form a group. In that case I would always recommend participating in the Beginner's Group or the Troubleshooting Group.

The key to this effort is to be flexible in selecting a group to work with.

I look forward to our next "break-out" session in December 2010.

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.

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## Handout #6 – FAMILYSEARCH BETA PREVIEW

**The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) on September 28, 2010.**

FamilySearch is sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (the Mormons) and the web site at <http://www.familysearch.org> has become one of the more popular sites on the Internet. Now the public is able to access the latest version of the site even though it hasn't been formally launched.

The newest version, [beta.familysearch.org](http://beta.familysearch.org), is up and running for the public, even though it carries the "beta" name, usually reserved for a test site on the Internet.

"Every 30 days, we are doing a pretty significant update," said Paul Nauta, manager of public affairs for Family Search. "We're getting ready for our official launch the first of next year."

In an article in the Standard-Examiner web site, Nauta is quoted as saying that almost weekly major announcements are made on the site about new offerings. He also said the site has something for everyone, from the newest beginners, who can learn from tutorials, to seasoned experts, who virtually live to do genealogy.

In September, in one week alone, 5 million records were added to the site, Nauta said. In the past 18 months, officials have added more than 450 collections of data.

"We've created a digital film reader," Nauta said. "Visitors can browse images, much like perusing microfilm."

You can read more in an article by JaNae Francis at

<http://www.standard.net/topics/genealogy/2010/09/27/lds-conference-preview-family-history-genealogy-becoming-web-based>

### Tony Kierna's Comments

*The following phrase applies even more so today to genealogy researchers:*

*"If you snooze, you lose."*

*Now is the time to buckle up your seat belts and jump in with both feet into the online world of genealogy research. The LDS is certainly leading the way as their massive microfilm record digitization process keeps adding more and more online accessible indexes and images at our fingertips.*

*As good as the basic [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) web site is, improvements and changes can always be made. The new online LDS Beta is the latest "change" for researchers to tap into to access online LDS data.*

*The site looks "clean", "open" and "visually appealing". There are basic links available on the main page to help you navigate quickly without having to dig deep*

into other links at the site. You will find the following main links from the first page of the site:

- *Getting Started*
- *How To*
- *FamilySearch Centers*
- *Search for Ancestors (Basic and Advanced)*
- *Browse Collections by Geographical Locations (Generally by Continent)*
- *Browse All Record Collections*
- *Learn*
- *Indexing*
- *Blog*

*I clicked my way through a variety of links and do feel that what you used to find at the basic [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) site you can easily find again at the new beta site. You will just sense a more visually enjoyable uncluttered experience.*

*I cannot emphasize enough that you should visit the beta site frequently. Browse through the geographical collections for North America. Look alphabetically to see what exists for states of the US that are of interest to you. I just noticed that there is a new Probate file of images only now available for select counties within Illinois. The site notes there are approximately 57,000 images available to browse among the variety of counties included in this database for Illinois. Unfortunately, Cook County is not in the list of the Illinois counties available.*

*I plan on creating a blog post to let you know more of the details that I am discovering for this newly available image only database for Illinois researchers.*

*Take a look at this site. Although it is identified as a "beta" site, it sounds like early on in 2011 this site will replace the more familiar site we all know and use today as "familysearch.org". (I am assuming that at this time the "beta" once it is live will simply be accessible at the old familiar "familysearch.org" web address.)*

*Even if you find a database that is un-indexed with images only at this time, don't consider it a loss. The images as they are look very crisp and readable. They often have an "image" index contained on the original microfilm that may steer you to various pages in the database images. So, in essence, you are now using this image only database as a "microfilm" with your computer being the "microfilm reader".*

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## Handout #7 – NEW GENEALOGY SITE AT WWW.GENEALOGYCENTER.ORG

**The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) on October 12, 2010.**

The Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana has launched a new genealogy web site. The aim is to make it easier for people to find out about their family ancestry without actually visiting the library's Genealogy Center.

The new web site, located at [www.genealogycenter.org](http://www.genealogycenter.org), includes several free databases and portals including the African American Gateway, Family Bible Records and Our Military Heritage that have been developed by the Genealogy Center.

The Genealogy Center's website includes other resources, including full-text books that have been digitized by Internet Archives, the Center's Pathfinders to various areas of research, and the Community Album, a collection of historical photographs for the surrounding area.

I also noticed that the site has some excellent "how to get started in genealogy" tutorials, a calendar of future events being held at the Allen County Public Library, past issues of "Genealogy Gems," an e-zine which lists information about the department's collections and useful research tips, and more.

Perhaps the most valuable online service of all is the "As a Librarian" section. As stated on the new web site, "Uncertain whether we have a record you're seeking? Need a quick pointer on what to do next in your research? Ask a Genealogy Librarian and get a quick response. Answers to your questions about our catalogs, collections, databases, programs and other services are just an email away. Contact us at [Genealogy@ACPL.Info](mailto:Genealogy@ACPL.Info) for additional information about The Genealogy Center or a quick pointer to help you advance your research. We'll make every effort to respond to your general queries within 48 hours."

The Fred J. Reynolds Historical Genealogy Department, located in the Main Library Branch of the Allen County Public Library, is the second-largest genealogy department in North America. It is home to more than 350,000 printed volumes and 513,000 items of microfilm and microfiche. Only the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, a private institution, is larger.

The new web site is a wonderful resource, one for other genealogy libraries to emulate. You can see all this and more at <http://www.genealogycenter.org>

### Tony Kierna's Comments

*Generally speaking, the Allen County Public Library (ACPL), is probably considered the "genealogical goldmine" within the Midwest region of our country. In Chicago, we have the Newberry Library as our very local goldmine. But for many others in the non-Chicago Midwest area, the Allen county Public Library is often their closest choice to a great onsite genealogical collection.*

*So when I see something "new" that applies to this great library, I take note.*

*Dick Eastman's blog entry from above certainly provides a good synopsis of what is available to the genealogical researcher from this new web site.*

*I did spend some time browsing through a variety of links, pages and resources that the researcher can tap into at the site. There is a great amount of good resources that you can find.*

*Visit the site and become familiar with the nice listing of tabs at the very top of the home page. You will find high level links here that contain many sub-level links that become seen when you hover the cursor over the area. The main tabs available at this part of the site are:*

- *Home*
- *Pathfinders (Has sub-links that appear when you hover over)*
- *Genealogy Community (Has sub-links that appear when you hover over)*
- *Databases (Has sub-links that appear when you hover over)*
- *Services*
- *Events*
- *Donate*
- *Location*
- *Contact*

*At the main page I did notice a boxed area on the right side that says "Family History Archives". It is in this boxed area if you look down a little bit you will see another link called "Internet Archive". It is through this link that you will gain access to a myriad of digitized, full-text, online books. Spend some time here among the 46,000 digitized, full-text, online books available from the ACPL. You can see what is here by:*

- *Browse by Title*
- *Browse by Author*
- *Related Collections*
- *Recently Reviewed*
- *Just In*
- *Search for a Book*

*I did a simple search using "DeKalb" as my search term looking for items of DeKalb County, Illinois. I got 123 hits total and found some good online material to read online in a variety of formats. There was an online history of DeKalb County, Illinois that was interesting. Once you select the item of your choice, you can then choose to read it in the following formats:*

- *Read Online*
- *PDF*
- *B&W PDF*
- *ePub*
- *Kindle*
- *Daisy*
- *Full Text*
- *D/Vu (I am not sure of this format)*

*You can search the text online and look at the hits and pages where they occur.*

*This is a very good resource for anyone to look for county histories, family history published books etc. Don't overlook trying out this site for this great online resource of digitized book material.*

*Another fascinating part of this site that ties in more with current technology and learning is the part of accessing the ACPL YouTube channel of videos that are online. You can access this part of the site by simply hovering over the "Genealogy Community" tab on the main page and see the sub-link for YouTube material that exists for the ACPL. You will weekly updates of what is happening at the library for that week in roughly a 3 minute video presentation. You can search through the approximately 242 videos, looking for videos of genealogical interest.*

*In the same tab for "Genealogy Community" you can also find the ACPL Genealogy Blog. There is much to look through this blog as it applies to genealogy information that applies to ACPL as well as to genealogy research in general.*

*All in all, this is a great site to bookmark, use and visit frequently for new additions of resources. Spend some time exploring the site. You will not be disappointed for what online material you can find as well as to learn more of ACPL and their massive collection.*

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## Handout #8 – 1 TERABYTE CAPACITY OPTICAL DRIVE

**The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) on October 11, 2010.**

Now you can copy ALL your family tree, including family photographs, and a lot more to one removable disk, similar to a CD or DVD disk.

First, there were CD disks with roughly 600 megabytes of storage. That was followed by DVD disks with roughly 4.7 gigabytes of storage. More recently, Blu-ray disks have become popular with up to 25 gigabytes of storage on one disk. All of those numbers can be doubled with the so-called double-layer disks.

Now, a new technology from TDK delivers disks that will store up to one terabyte of information. If my math is correct, that is the equivalent of 1,667 CD-ROM disks, all stored on one disk that looks a lot like a CD-ROM disk.

The company realized the large capacity by forming 16 recording layers, each of which has a capacity of 32 gigabytes on each side of the disc.

One difference is the thickness of the new disk. It is roughly two-and-a-half times as the thickness of a standard CD, DVD, or Blu-ray disk. However, that probably isn't much of a problem. Any recorder or playback device made for the new disks will simply need to accommodate the thicker disks.

You can read more at

[http://techon.nikkeibp.co.jp/english/NEWS\\_EN/20101009/186359/](http://techon.nikkeibp.co.jp/english/NEWS_EN/20101009/186359/)

### Tony Kierna's Comments

*Every time I read something about the increased storage capacity of new devices or media I am always amazed. Remember, 1 TB of space equals 1,024 GB of space.*

*I still feel good that I am carrying around a lot of my own research information and other things on an 8 GB flashdrive! Yikes what could I possibly fill up a TB of media with when I still have plenty of space left on an 8 GB flashdrive!!*

*But it does seem that no matter how large something is created with great capacity we always seem plenty of "stuff" to fill it up with. I guess 1 TB of space can be eaten up quite rapidly if we start filling it up with BluRay movies, YouTube videos, thousands of songs in an uncompressed, high quality mode.*

*The article did mention that the thickness of the disk is 2.5 times as thick as a DVD as we know it today is somewhat of a problem. So I guess we will see a new kind of device to read and write to this. Or maybe, future readers will have the ability for you to specify the thickness of the media you want to read.*

*I also noticed there was no mention made of the cost of the new disk. Let me guess, maybe the same price as the cost of buying a standalone 1 TB external storage hard drive???*

*We will just have to wait and see.*

*So now it appears we will start recording every minute of our entire lives and be able to save all of this day to day boring material for future generations (who will promptly throw away the material containing all of this after your death!)*

*Another great technology improvement coming for which we will have to panic about whether or not a reader for it will soon exist or will exist far out into the future to make a difference for our descendants when we pass down all of this saved material.*

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## Handout #9 – UNDERSTANDING PASSENGER LISTS FROM AN ARTICLE IN FAMILY CHRONICLE

### Tony Kierna's Comments

The following thoughts and comments created by me (Tony Kierna) came from reading an article titled "Understanding Passenger Lists" in the September/October 2010, Volume 15, Number 1 issue of Family Chronicle.

I thought that an interesting article in this recent journal was one titled "Understanding Passenger Lists".

The author provides some good historical background on the origination of passenger lists. The Federal government mandated in 1820 that any ship entering a port of the United States was to provide a listing of all passengers onboard the ship entering the United States. Many of these records are available through our National Archives on microfilm and some are online. These lists were to be made by the captain of the ship at the port of embarkation, prior to making the journey to the United States. Many passengers in these times did not survive the long journey to the United States. Therefore, such a passenger would have been on the original list but should also be noted as having died on the voyage to the United States. This may be the only notation of death for this person so it is wise to look closely at such lists to see if an ancestor was alive at time of embarkation but died during the voyage.

Passenger records were often created on pre-printed large size ledger sheets that were bound in books. Just like in our own lives, a captain could have not planned to re-stock these blank forms and discovered that he was out of the pre-printed forms. The only viable alternative to follow the procedures and mandates requiring passenger lists was to then create the lists on blank pieces of paper. It is possible you will discover such plain looking passenger records in your own research.

Over time, the lists evolved from basic pieces of information such as name of the passenger and age to name of the passenger, age, occupation, town that was left, town that the passenger is going to, number of pieces of luggage, money in the possession of the passenger. Someone finding passenger information on an ancestor in 1880 may find the former meager amounts of information. Someone searching passenger records in 1910 may find the latter "goldmine" of information.

The author also notes an important piece of information. Though the digitization process of images today is welcome and looked forward to, the author notes that the digitization process may in fact not pick up very light pencil markings on the digital image that are in fact visible on the microfilm record or on the original record itself. The lesson to be learned here is that you still can't beat researching the original document itself to observe all the nuances and quirks that may be contained in it visually that are often not picked up through creating the digitized image. I have mentioned this same concept before as it pertains to indexing. An index item created through the transcription process may unintentionally create an error that can only be discovered by viewing the original record.

The author also makes note of understanding the difference between primary information and secondary information. Information concerning the voyage, name of

the ship, name of the captain, ports of origin and destination, as well as date of arrival can be considered primary evidence because it was created by a crew member. However, there is no statement as to who provided the information on each individual passenger to the compiler of the list. Some mysteries will never be able to be solved. We can only guess why an ancestor's listing may have strange information that we think is incorrect. Who provided it? No one will know this.

The author then uses an example of some discoveries made on a passenger list for a particular multi-person family. Some of the observations are obvious. But the author makes a good point on what to do with this information for further research. As an example, it was noted that there was an adult female listed with children following her listing. Don't make the assumption that the adult female is the mother and the children are her children because there was no relationship connection shown on the passenger list. Try to find the family in the next US Census, hopefully one that shows the relationships and determine if there is a mother child relationship for this family. In the same case the female was traveling apparently without a male companion "husband". Was she married and going with her children to connect with her husband in the United States? Was she widowed and going to the United States to be with other family? Again, you don't know for sure. Future census research may prove out some of these suppositions.

This article provides the researcher with some "pauses" to take and to do further research to prove out some of what appear to be certain connections.

In my own personal passenger list research I discovered my grandmother on a Baltimore passenger record listed under her maiden name apparently traveling alone at the age of 17. That just did not sit well with me. It was not until years later that I discovered who some female siblings of her were. I also then realized that her female siblings had gotten married in Poland. I was then able to determine the surname of the man this sister had married. When I went back to the passenger list I discovered that the person above my grandmother on the list was in fact in her older sibling sister that was coming to the United States and was listed under her married name. So my grandmother was in fact not traveling alone to the United States at the age of 17!

Passenger records often require multiple visits over time as you acquire more information over time. My own personal example was one that solved a problem for me simply by uncovering more information and revisiting something I had previously visited. Oh the joys of research!!

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## Handout #10 – FIVE WAYS TO CONNECT WITH YOUR LIVING KIN FROM AN ARTICLE IN INTERNET GENEALOGY

### Tony Kierna's Comments

The following summary I created (Tony Kierna) was from an article in the October/November 2010, Volume 5, Number 4 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled "Five Ways to Connect with Your Living Kin".

The author provides some good tips that revolve around "making yourself more visible" as the keys to being able to make the connections you need with your relatives. The tips are those that put you out there for possible discovery by these relatives that you are unaware of. They may very well discover you and connect with you so that your research can advance.

Here are some of the tips offered by the author:

- **Weave a Web Presence**
  - Set up a personal web site or a family site to be discovered by any relatives.
  - Start a blog about your family research with the hope of also being discovered by relatives.
  - Even consider creating a short video about your family research that you can then upload to YouTube.
- **Be a Social Butterfly**
  - Jump in with both feet into the many Internet Social Networks that exist both in a general sense and those geared to genealogical researchers.
    - Facebook @ [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)
    - Genealogy Wise @ [www.genealogywise.com](http://www.genealogywise.com)
    - Twitter @ [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)
    - Ancestry.com @ <http://trees.ancestry.com>
    - Geni.com @ [www.geni.com](http://www.geni.com)
    - MyHeritage.com's Family Tree Builder @ [www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder](http://www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder)
- **Share What You Know**
  - Consider sharing what you already know from your research what you know with the idea of being discovered by fellow researchers.
    - Footnote.com @ [www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com) has the capability to register yourself with the site and for you to leave "notes" on census pages to be discovered by other researchers interested in the same families.
    - Consider creating a Wiki, similar to an encyclopedic entry, on the family or name of interest to you. Take a

look at the following genealogically oriented Wikis to leave your material.

- WeRelate @ [www.werelate.org/wiki](http://www.werelate.org/wiki)
- FamilySearch Wiki @ <https://wiki.familysearch.org/en>
- Ancestry.com Family History Wiki @ [www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page)
- Participate in DNA Testing. Take a look at the following sites for further information on this growing topic of interest in genealogy
  - Family Tree DNA @ [www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)
  - 23andMe @ [www.23andme.com](http://www.23andme.com)
  - Cyndi's List Surname DNA Studies and Projects @ [www.cyndislist.com/surn-dna.htm](http://www.cyndislist.com/surn-dna.htm)
- Publish a book
- **Volunteer**
  - Volunteer at a local Family History Center (FHC) and discover that someone that comes in may be searching the same family lines as you.
- **Leave Online Breadcrumbs**
  - Includes names or places you are researching in your e-mail signature.
  - Comment on blogs, message boards, mailing lists etc. so your name and research can be discovered by others.
  - Use a service as Ancestral Atlas @ [www.ancestralatlas.com](http://www.ancestralatlas.com) to leave "pushpin" type identifications of where your ancestors were born, married, died etc. again to be discovered by other researchers.

The article provides more detailed information about what I have summarized above. You may want to look at the entire article to obtain even more information on how to strategize to "expose" yourself more so that relatives you do not know about may ultimately discover you among the variety of places you have left information for them to discover.

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