

February 8, 2011 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our February 8, 2011 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.

I also plan on use the "yellow highlight" tool within Word and highlight certain areas of these notes that I think are important to note. The visual highlighting will take your eyes to areas of importance to note. Please let me know if you think this OK or if it may be a distraction? I thought I would give it a try.

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.

I will clearly identify my own comments when the handout is a combination of material that came from some other source such as Dick Eastman's blog as well as my own comments. I will indicate my comments in Italics, clearly marked so the reader can distinguish between the original verbiage and my own comments. If a handout item was completely created by me then you will see that noted at the top. In this case, the entirety of the handout was created by me and will not be shown in Italics.

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.schaumburglibrary.org. Select "Local History and Genealogy" at the top of the page, then look for the icon on the Local History and Genealogy page that says "Tony's Genealogy Blog". Open the blog link and then look at the right hand sidebar of the blog and you will see the "Handouts" information. The direct web address for the blog I author is <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

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.SchaumburgLibrary.org by scrolling across the top of the first page and look for the tab that says “Local History and Genealogy”. Click on that tab and look on the right side for our library genealogy blog on the right side that says “Tony’s 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 FEBRUARY 15, 2011

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists will take place on Tuesday evening, February 15, 2011. The program for the evening is titled **“Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places: Search for Marriage Records ”**. The speaker for the evening will be Ginger Frere.

Ginger presented this program at our library in the last 6 months. It was wonderful! If you were not able to attend at our library, see the program Ginger is providing through the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists.

Ginger Frere is a librarian at the Newberry Library of Chicago, noted for its genealogical holdings and services. Ginger's basic theme is that people don't always get married where you expect, and therefore the marriage records are harder to find. In particular, people elope to places where restrictions on marriage are easier than those at home. The classic place for this phenomenon is Scotland's Gretna Green, where historically it was easier to marry than in England. **Gretna Green** is now a generic term for easy marriage locales. There were other reasons for not getting married in the home church, such as ease of transportation to other places, tradition, availability of a church of one's preference, trendiness, and/or anonymity.

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

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Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT SOCIETY PROGRAM ON March 16, 2011; DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY HAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN ST. CHARLES, IL ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2011

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, March 16, 2011. The program scheduled for that evening is **“Irish Fest”**. The speaker for the program will be Lee Murdock of the Illinois Humanities Council.

Attendees can expect to hear an evening of Irish history, stories and song!

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.

Also be aware the society is having its Annual Conference on Saturday, February 26, 2011 at the Hilton Garden in St. Charles, Illinois. The Conference Program Title is **“Connecting the Dots”**. This is an all-day program. This is the 36th Annual Conference of the DuPage County Genealogical Society to be held in its history. Walk-ins are welcome at the last minute. There is usually an un-discounted charge for the conference as a walk-in. You also may not be guaranteed a lunch but there are plenty of restaurants in the very nearby area if you were unable to obtain a lunch from the society. Take advantage of any pre-registration you can do with the material at the website and avoid the uncertainties of not getting a lunch if you walk-in unregistered.

Details for this special Annual Conference can be found at the society’s web page listed below. Just look for the link at the top of the first page you encounter that says **“Conferences”**. Click on that link and you will gain access to all of the information concerning this upcoming conference.

You may visit the society's web page for any recent announcements about this program at:

www.dcgcs.org

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON FEBRUARY 19, 2011

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, February 19, 2011 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"Handheld Apps for Family Research"**. The speaker for the program will be John Stryker.

John will show how to put tools and applications to work for family research on your iPad, Android, Blackberry and more.

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 MARCH 8, 2011

We will have another “break-out” session for our gathering on March 8, 2011. Our previous attempts proved to be quite a good success. I would like us to build on those successes and afford those participants the opportunity to meet with those again or sample other groups.

After an initial introduction of new participants at the start of our normally scheduled meeting, we will establish our “breakout” groups at approximately 7:45 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 on March 8, 2011.

You may visit the library's web page at:

www.SchaumburgLibrary.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 – ILLINOIS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES NEWLY REDESIGNED WEB PAGE

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated January 15, 2011.

The following announcement was written by the Illinois State Genealogical Society:

January 15, 2011 – Springfield, IL. The Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS) announces the debut of its newly redesigned website available to the public on Saturday, January 15, 2011.

Located at <http://www.ilgensoc.org>, the new ISGS website features links to ISGS projects as well as links to other records and resources throughout Illinois including those individual genealogical home pages with an Illinois connection!

Visitors are invited to explore the new ISGS website and enjoy these features:

- The current issue of the ISGS Newsletter and archived copies back to 2008
- Listings of ISGS events and events for Illinois genealogical societies
- Highlights of various ISGS projects and initiatives
- Free databases filled with information on Illinois ancestors
- A list of Illinois research resources

New Members Section

One of the new features of the ISGS website is a members-only section which will be populated with access to Illinois-related databases for those researchers with Prairie State ancestors. Over the course of the next few months, additional members-only databases will be added.

Stop By and Visit ISGS!

ISGS encourages everyone – ISGS members and the public – to stop by and explore. In addition, visitors are encouraged to leave their feedback with the ISGS webmaster at isgswebmaster@ilgensoc.org.

About Illinois State Genealogical Society

The Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS) was organized in October of the Illinois Sesquicentennial Year, 1968, and is a non-profit, educational organization. ISGS was established for the following purposes:

- To stimulate an interest in the people who contributed to the establishment and development of the State of Illinois.
- To seek, preserve, and make available data pertaining to individuals, families, and groups who lived in Illinois and to events which took place therein.
- To inform people of the value of, and need for, preserving family and local history for posterity.
- To encourage the formation of local genealogical societies and to coordinate and disseminate information.

The ISGS genealogical collection is located in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield and an administrative office is maintained in the Illinois State Archives. For more information visit <http://www.ilgensoc.org>.

Follow us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/ILgensoc>), Twitter (<http://www.twitter.com/ILgensoc>) and on our blog at <http://ilgensoc.blogspot.com>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

It really does seem like the Illinois State Genealogical Society is definitely in the process of rebuilding itself. This newly redesigned web site is an indication of that rebuilding process.

One thing you will notice is that the society webpage has a "Members Only" section. Many societies are constructing these access points within their web site that allows only members to access certain database research material. This is the added incentive to gain new membership by tempting you with the idea that you may discover long lost ancestors within the member's accessible only database. I think there is validity to this concept for a society to generate revenue for itself.

You will also notice there is a definite connection to Twitter and Facebook for this society. Many societies are doing what individuals are doing. Facebook and Twitter participation are so routine that this offers societies another outlet to share their views and materials and to connect with more than just registered members.

The home page for this society provides readers with news items current to the society.

Along the left side of the page in the left sidebar area the society provides a series of links to various other subsections of the web site. This is very easy to maneuver around the site. You will find links to Projects, Events, Publications, Forms, Free Databases and a few other items of interest.

You will also be able to find a nice link to the ISGS Newsletters of the past three years. The newsletter is an 8 page document filled with all kinds of information pertinent to the society. This is a very nice feature. Even the most current newsletter appears to be fully available to read through. These newsletters are PDF files that you can save to your own computer for reading offline at your leisure or even for printing should you choose.

The ISGS site also has a link to a Publications section from the society from which publications are offered for purchase. This is another good thing for a society to generate some revenue. Members and non-members can make purchases here, members pay for the material at a discount to non-members. I did notice that there is a large list of materials to purchase but I did not notice an ability to get a description of the material for sale so the reader would have some more details of the material before purchasing.

The free databases contain materials on Civil War Certificates, Certified Prairie Pioneers, Family Bible Records Surnames, World War I Certificates, World War II Certificates. There is not that much information overall within these free databases.

If you have never visited the site for the Illinois State Genealogical Society, now is the time to look at this newly renovated site. You will find plenty to look at. Become a member and unlock the access to the Members Material link.

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Handout #7 – CONQUERING THE PAPER MONSTER AVAILABLE IN PRINT AND AS VIDEO; ALSO A NICE BLOG BY THE AUTHOR ON ALL THINGS GENEALOGY

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated January 5, 2011.

The following announcement was written by Elyse Doerflinger:
Learn to Organize Your Genealogy Papers

5 January 2011 - Los Angeles, CA. Elyse Doerflinger - author of the popular e-book *Conquering The Paper Monster Once and For All* - has released a video recording of the *Conquering The Paper Monster Lecture*. Elyse has presented this lecture at various genealogy societies and has finally recorded it for all the world to see!

This video lecture includes the presentation slides synced with Elyse's voice audio to create a lecture that can be listened to in the comfort of your home. Along with the video, customers will receive a .pdf copy of the handout. *Conquering The Paper Monster Video Lecture* is available [here](#) for the price of \$7.99.

In *Conquering The Paper Monster Video Lecture*, you'll learn how to create a custom organizational system that is unique to your needs, wants, and personality. This lecture will walk you through the easy step-by-step process of organizing your genealogy papers. Organization is something nearly every researcher needs help with - and this lecture is perfect to help you finally "conquer the paper monster".

About Elyse Doerflinger

Elyse Doerflinger is a rising young genealogist with a speciality in organization and technology. She is the author of *Elyse's Genealogy Blog*, where she shares her knowledge and family history. Her love of sharing knowledge with others has inspired her to write for lecture for various genealogy societies and write for genealogy magazines. Connect with her through [email](#), [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#)!

Comments by Tony Kierna

I was intrigued by this post by Dick Eastman and I wanted to check it out further. I clicked on some of the links included in the above post to see what it was all about. I especially clicked on the link above to the Blog of Elyse to see what is there. I will say I was amazed at the detail that is present on her blog. Be aware that there is plenty of advertising at her blog, much for her own products that include e-books and video lessons as mentioned above, but also for other genealogy oriented providers.

Nonetheless, I believe she presents some great insightful genealogy information. The prices for her materials seem relatively inexpensive because I believe she is producing all of her own materials and converting them to electronic format for sale.

Being that genealogy seems to be the hobby of those that are more "mature", I was impressed to see that Elyse is a young college age student who has a passion for family research. We do not see that very often among genealogy researchers.

Elyse also has a presence on YouTube. I decided to see what I could find there and came across a series of videos she has created and uploaded. You can take a look at some of her online genealogy teaching videos that are viewable for free at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/elyse90505#p/u>

The above link will take you to her YouTube channel. I saw that she has about 30 genealogy oriented videos at the site. Topics include the following:

- Backing Up Your Data
- Getting Kids Involved in Genealogy
- US Census Series (12 Parts)
- Creating a Research Binder
- Citing Your Sources
- How To Organize (2 Parts)

The videos run in length anywhere from 2 minutes to as long as 9 minutes in length.

I will say that she presents basic information in her videos on genealogy. She does not yet exhibit the polish of a more experienced researcher at her young age. However, I believe her overriding strength she possesses is to inform and educate young genealogical researchers. So for those of us that are "mature" researchers, haven't we all wanted our own children and grandchildren to get involved as partners with us in doing genealogy? Sometimes that is easier said than done. However, I think we have added another tool to our "recruiting" belt by using the material that, Elyse, a young 18 year old girl, has uploaded to YouTube on genealogy research as well as what can be found on her blog.

I would encourage that we point out to our own children and grandchildren what Elyse has on YouTube. What better way to motivate our own young children and grandchildren to take an interest in genealogy than by showing them what has already been done by a young person.

Take a look at Elyse's blog site. Take a look at the YouTube link of her material. Make note of her material to your own younger children or grandchildren. In fact, show your children or grandchildren her material yourself to them. Don't overwhelm them because they will run the other way kicking and screaming!! The idea is to "plant the seed" of research by using someone similar in age to them as a role model.

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Handout #8 – EXPLOSIVE MICROFILM CAUSES EVACUATION AT LDS CHURCH HISTORY LIBRARY (NOT FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY IN SALT LAKE)

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated January 20, 2011.

Microfilms do not last forever. In fact, older microfilms can self-destruct in the best "Mission Impossible" manner imaginable. Yesterday, a microfilm from the LDS Church History Library in Salt Lake City was taken to a landfill and detonated after patrons had been evacuated from the building.

NOTE: This happened at the LDS Church History Library, not at the nearby LDS Family History Library that is used by tens of thousands of genealogists.

Two floors of the LDS Church History Library were evacuated Wednesday afternoon as a precaution because of decomposing film that posed an explosion risk.

Salt Lake Fire Captain Michael Harp said an alert archivist noticed deteriorating 72 mm film inside a canister at 2:30 p.m. The film contained an unstable element called cellulose nitrate, which Harp says can be flammable or even create a small explosion.

Patrons on the third and fourth floors of the library were escorted out while the film was contained in an archival room.

From there, a company specializing in the removal and transport of such materials picked up the film. After waiting several hours for downtown traffic to taper off, Harp said the film was taken to the local landfill where it was detonated.

Comments by Tony Kierna

YIKES!!

I personally have not seen a "smoking" roll of microfilm or one that is about to explode!!

The only "smoking" microfilms I have seen are those that contain a goldmine of information on my own personal research! Those are the kind of microfilms we all want to discover!

I have heard stories from Hollywood about films from 100 years ago that were created then in a manner using materials that over time would deteriorate like this. I guess I truly did not fathom "deterioration" versus "explosion". I think Hollywood has undergone a process of converting "old" films on this kind of destructive material to a much safer long-lasting material that will ensure preservation of classics and safety for those that have to handle and archive this material.

This is the lesson I take away from this little "explosive" news item. You may have family films in your possession. They are probably 8MM or Super 8 MM or even 16 MM. No, I am not going to tell you that your films are going to explode or start smoking in their canisters. But what I am going to tell you is to RUN, not WALK, to a

professional that can transfer the film you have to DVD. It is all about preserving memories for future generations. You can be guaranteed that the film sitting in a metal container of a family event from maybe only 50 years is deteriorating day after day in that can. Having a film in a can is one thing. Never being able to share that visually with a grandchild or generations down the road is another thing!

So while you may be safe for now about a film never getting to the level of explosiveness, you are not safe from seeing it deteriorate over time where the film will easily break due to dryness or actually begin to lose the image itself of what is on the film. Also remember that you may have the film in the can for many more years to come but you MAY NOT HAVE A PROJECTOR TO PLAY IT ON OR A PROJECTOR BULB TO LIGHT IT UP! Even professionals have noted to me that they have to scrounge around EBay looking for these devices and bulbs because they are not being manufactured as they were 50 years ago.

Get your films converted now. You are in a losing battle for which you will never be a winner!

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Handout #9 – DECIPHERING FOREIGN ORIGINATED PICTURES OF ANCESTORS

Comments by Tony Kierna

The following thoughts and comments created by me (Tony Kierna) came from reading an article titled "Foreign Images" in the October-December 2010, Volume 36, Number 4 issue of NGSMagazine.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled "Foreign Images" by Maureen Taylor.

Most of us have plenty of old pictures in our possession. Many are properly identified. Sadly, many are unidentified. These pictures may represent our ancestors taken in the United States. That can still make it difficult to impossible to try to uncover who these ancestors may be in the picture.

Maureen's article raises the dilemma to another level. What if the pictures you have in your possession are pictures that originated in another country? You now have less familiarity with what is contained in the picture that could possibly help you unravel the mystery. Maureen's article provides some points we should consider for analysis:

- **Family Traditions** – you have the picture in your possession. What was the chain of possession? How did you get it? Work the chain of possession back to see if you can connect with a family member that could shed more light on the connection and who might be in the picture.
- **Photo Style** – study a photo to determine if it is a daguerreotype, a glass ambrotype, an iron tintype or a paper print. Consider case design if in a case. If paper, consider color and size of the paper stock. Uncover the history of these type of pictures outside of the United States.
- **Photographer's Imprint** – for formal pictures look to discover the photographer's name on the print. Perhaps you will be lucky enough to see a complete address for the studio. Researching a foreign photographer can be difficult. Check out material by searching on the Internet. See if city directories exist for the studio location. Through these directories you may uncover the dates when the studio was in business and obviously in what location.
- **Clothing** – you will have to investigate clothing styles outside of the United States. The author suggests you tap into a book titled *Folk Costumes of the World* by Robert Harrold. Another book to look into is one titled *The Complete Costume History* by Auguste Racinet. Focus on finding book and Internet resources on fashion history outside of the United States.
- **Military Uniforms** – if the picture you have is foreign and has subjects in the picture in military uniform then you will need to pay

close attention to the details because military dress was by no means standard. A good source of military history can be found at Osprey publishing at www.ospreypublishing.com. Not every person in military dress was in the military. The picture might represent someone in military school.

- **Work or Trade Dress** – investigate if the picture appears to represent someone dressed in clothes appropriate to their occupation. A more distinct occupation shown in the picture can be more helpful than one dressed in general work clothes consisting of a loose shirt, work pants and sometimes hats.
- **Other Evidence** – maybe the picture was a postcard picture that has a postmark on the piece. This postmark can help you get to the geographic location where it was mailed. The stamp itself can lead you to investigate the time periods it was in use and thus narrow down the time event of the picture. Translate any message that was written in a foreign language. That alone could shed a great deal of information as to the picture. If the picture is of an outdoor scene with distinctive views in the background, there may be clues in the architectural styles of buildings or business signage to help you dig deeper.
- **Photo Timeline** – families often took formal photos when they were separating so they would have a memento in case they were never able to get back together, especially at the time of emigration to another country. Once a family or family member arrived safely at a destination another picture may have been taken to send back to the family to show that the member arrived safely.

This is a very insightful article that provides a lot of clues to help you investigate any foreign originated pictures you may have in your possession. Take a look at the full article for other tips and advice on how best to uncover information on any known foreign pictures you may have in your possession.

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Handout #10 – 10 TASKS TO COMPLETE IN 30 MINUTES OR LESS

Comments by Tony Kierna

The following thoughts and comments created by me (Tony Kierna) came from reading an article titled "10 Tasks To Complete in 30 Minutes or Less" in the January/February 2011, Volume 15, Number 3 issue of Family Chronicle.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one that provides the researcher with a nice simple list of suggested things to do to improve their genealogical research. The title of the article is "10 Task to Complete in 30 Minutes or Less". This sort of goes with the idea of a New Year's Resolution List!

Here are the 10 items suggested by Elyse Doerflinger, the author of the article:

- **Scan and Label 10 Pictures** – we all have plenty of pictures that could be of greater value to us in a digitized mode. Take the time and focus on doing a small amount per day over a long period of time and you won't find yourself overwhelmed. The author suggests scanning and saving the photo in .TIFF format at 400 DPI. These are large files but you can then create another image in smaller size like JPEG if you want to e-mail it from the picture you scanned in TIFF format.
- **Write a Query for a Message Board, Mailing List or Your Blog** – every time you write about an ancestor using one of these vehicles, you expose the possibility of someone seeing it and responding back to you. The more you have out on the Internet, the more you increase your chances of having someone connect to you.
- **Create a List of Genealogy Goals** – do not meander aimlessly with your research. Set some specific goals on specific areas of research and focus on that research rather than entering the same surnames into the same databases and expecting different results.
- **Create a Backup of Your Genealogy Data** – if you are using a lineage program like Family Tree Maker or Legacy or Roots Magic, make sure you make a copy of the file that is being created in your lineage program as a backup on an external flashdrive or hard drive or on the "internet cloud" or on a CD or DVD. Your work is worth the simple backup. Whatever you have digitized should be backed up. This includes digitized documents or pictures in your collection.

- **Transcribe a Document and Put the Information Into Your Genealogy Program** – take a look at documents you may have that may be hard to read and transcribe these into our lineage software. Often the act of transcribing will cause you to focus more intently than you may have in the past. New discoveries can occur from this more in-depth review.
- **Create a DVD of Old Family Photos to Share with Relatives** – if you already digitized many of your photos then consider sharing these with other relatives on a DVD. Include some descriptions of the photos so that those that would view them can understand what is being seen. Other eyes viewing these photos may be able to add even more history to the photo or other stories.
- **Upload Some of Your Cemetery Photos to FindAGrave** – you may have taken photos of gravesites in your past research that could be uploaded to FindAGrave.com. Again, more exposure through this wonderful site may get you contacts and inquiries that might expand your research.
- **Order a Record from an Archive, Courthouse, Library etc** – do you have some research because material you might need that is not online and readily available through commercial databases or free ones? Fill in the blanks the old fashioned way by submitting requests to obtain death records from counties, or a film from the LDS to search through. Everything is not available via the Internet and you could move your research forward by getting copies of documents the way we used to obtain them in paper format.
- **Set Up a Google Alert for the Name of Your Ancestor** – take advantage of the “alert” capability offered by Google at www.google.com/alerts and be notified in case something new appears on an ancestral name. You can then avoid the constant repetitive re-searching.
- **Be the Ancestor Every Genealogist Wants** – we love to find diaries, letters and journals of our ancestors in paper format. Pick up your pen and start one yourself about your favorite memories or stories. Now you can keep it electronically in many ways so that your descendants can discover something on you.

These are some great quick things you can do in a short time to energize your genealogical research. If you feel you are in the genealogy doldrums on your own personal research, then try some of the above to reinvigorate your research!

Take a look at the entirety of this recent issue of Family Chronicle for all of the other good articles I noted earlier on that are included in this issue. See which articles match to any research you are doing and check out the entirety of that article by looking at this issue.

You can find this most recent issue of Family Chronicle on the 2nd floor of our library on the magazine shelves.

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