June 14, 2011 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our June 14, 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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5/25/2011

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 SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

THE SOCIETY DOES NOT MEET DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST.

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists will take place on Tuesday evening, September 20, 2011. The program for the evening is titled **"To Be Determined"**. The speaker for the evening will be To Be Determined.

I will provide information on this next program that will not occur until September 2011 when the information becomes available.

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 SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

THE SOCIETY DOES NOT MEET DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, September 21, 2011. The program scheduled for that evening is **"To Be Determined"**. The speaker for the program will be To Be Determined.

I will provide information on this next program that will not occur until September 2011 when the information becomes available.

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

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON JUNE 18, 2011

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, June 18, 2011 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"Genes for the Genealogist"**. The speaker for the program will be Michelle Wilson.

Curious about DNA? Happily, DNA for the genealogist is straightforward to understand. We'll break down the SNPs from the STRs, the haplogroups from the haplotypes, and learn how these DNA patterns are used to prove inheritance and determine deep ancestry. Learn the secrets of DNA and put this powerful complement to paper-trail research in your tool kit.

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 JULY 12, 2011

Our program for this evening is titled "**Who Sank Grandpa's Boat?: Effective Techniques for Finding Passenger Manifests**". Our speaker for the evening program will be Daniel Niemiec.

Dan Niemiec is the Italian genealogy correspondent of *Fra Noi*. He is co-founder, co-chair and webmaster of the Italian genealogy group called POINTers In Person, Chicago-North chapter. He has given presentations to local and national genealogy conferences and societies. His Italian ancestral lines go back to the mid-late-1600s, and his Polish lines go back to the mid 1700s. By tracing descendant lines, he has found over 62,000 relatives, the result of 17 years of original research. To subsidize his genealogy, he works full-time as a computer network administrator in Mundelein, IL.

Dan's specialties include Italian research, Chicago research, Family Tree Maker and internet genealogy. He coached high school speech team for 10 years ("extemporaneous speaking" and "original comedy" events), which has helped make his presentations not only informative but also entertaining.

Dan has previously presented programs to our group. He has always left the audience with more research information after they leave than when they came in to the program. Dan has previously educated us on using Message Boards and Finding Catholic Churches in the Chicago Area.

We look forward to Dan's return visit with another interesting topic that can help us in our research efforts.

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 – NEW NEWSLETTER – CASEFILE CLUES FOR BEGINNERS BY MICHAEL JOHN NEILL

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

The following announcement was written by Michael John Neill:

We are announcing a new how-to genealogy newsletter for the beginning genealogist starting June of 2011.

Reader and survey feedback indicated an interest in a newsletter aimed toward the genealogist who needed some guidance in starting their search for their ancestors and who needed more than just a summary of what records contained. *Casefile Clues for Beginners* will help orient genealogists to the basic records genealogists use and how to make the best use of their research time and money.

Tentatively titled *Casefile Clues for Beginners*, this new newsletter will be bi-weekly and feature beginning level material written by a variety of genealogists, not just me. We'll have a question and answer section, interpret the handwriting section, one or two articles every issue, and more. This new periodical will be written in a down-to-earth, practical format. *Casefile Clues for Beginners* will concentrate on those who are starting or have just started their search for their ancestors.

There is more information about *Casefile Clues for Beginners* on our blog: http://goo.gl/EnXUj

Questions can be sent to me at mjnrootdig@gmail.com.

We are very excited to start this new endeavor geared towards those who have just started the search for their ancestors.

Thanks!

Michael

Comments by Tony Kierna

What a great idea from Michael John Neill! For those of us that have been researching and doing genealogy for some time we may at times forget the needs of the beginning researcher. Sure, we can point them to introductory genealogy research material to get them going. But it is nice to know that this new resource that is just starting will also be available to help the beginner on the quest for family history information.

It does appear from the above that questions can be submitted to Michael that appear to then be used as learning tools for the beginner based on Michael's analysis and his response that will be part of the newsletter.

Since this is a new endeavor, the author, Michael John Neill, is indicating that there will be an initial subscription to the newsletter that will cost the subscriber $7.50. PayPal will be the method of payment for this newsletter. If you are not signed up with PayPal, an e-mail to the author can allow you to make payment in an alternative manner. *It appears that during this time Michael will be evaluating how successful the newsletter is and whether there will be enough subscribers to launch it on a more permanent basis after the initial 6 month period. The newsletter will be distributed as a PDF file and will contain no advertising. According to information from the above website, the newsletter will contain the following:*

- *1 beginning article focusing on a basic topic or source*
- *1 beginning level article focusing on analysis or organizing*
- *2-3 reader questions with answers*

One concept he will discuss is safely taking from online family trees, including:

- *how to evaluate what you find in online trees*
- *using those "leaves" at Ancestry.com*
- *determining when "suggestions" from online sites are "right" and "wrong"*

You can send a request to Michael John Neil to obtain a "sample" newsletter for your consideration and evaluation to samples@casefileclues.com.

The initial subscription for this new offering has a start date of June 8, 2011.

Take a look at the link above to get you to Michael's site where you can read more of the details of this developing newsletter. Consider requesting a sample for an evaluation on your part.

This is one that may be worth watching!

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5/25/2011

Handout #7 – WHOLLY GENES OFFERING 7TH ANNUAL GENEALOGY CRUISE FROM NOVEMBER 13, 2011 TO NOVEMBER 20, 2011 TO SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated May 12, 2011.

Wholly Genes, Inc. has announced the company's 7th Annual Genealogy Conference and Cruise. If you have ever thought of going on a cruise or have thought of attending a genealogy conference, this is your chance to do both at the same time! The Wholly Genes cruise is traditionally the largest family history conference on the seas.

This year's voyage will leave Fort Lauderdale on November 13, 2011 and go to the Southern Caribbean and back again, arriving back in Fort Lauderdale on November 20. Ports to be visited include Aruba, Curaçao, and a small island in the Bahamas called Half Moon Cay.

The presenters already announced for this cruise include Pam Boyer Sayre, C.G.; Rick Sayre, C.G.; Craig Scott, C.G.; and Dick Eastman (hey! That's me!). The announcement also states that additional speaker(s) will be announced.

Wholly Genes is well-known for producing a Windows genealogy program called The Master Genealogist. I have been on some Wholly Genes cruises before and can assure you that this cruise appeals to all interests, not just to users of that one program. You will be able to attend 15+ hours of genealogical lectures that are completely software-neutral. Some will discuss other software topics but many more will be on research techniques and methodologies, use of the Internet, source citations, and many other topics we all want to learn about. Even Macintosh users will find plenty of interest in this cruise. Additional presentations not included in the 15+ hours will focus on the use of The Master Genealogist.

In addition to the group classes, the attendees will have opportunities for one-on-one consultations and casual meals with professional researchers.

Of course, all cruises are great for families. Unlike attending a genealogy conference on dry land, family members who do not wish to learn about genealogy can find many other attractions on board ship and in ports. You can bring the spouse or significant other along, as well as the children or grandchildren. I suspect everyone will enjoy the experience.

Unlike many traditional land-based conferences, you won't have to make difficult choices about which lectures to miss because none of the lecture times overlap. All lectures are scheduled while the ship is at sea so you won't have any problems with your vacation time while in the tropical ports.

The cruise will be on board the ms Westerdam, a Vista class ship owned by Holland America Line.

What could be better than a Caribbean vacation and a first-class genealogy conference all rolled into one?

You can learn more at the Wholly Genes web site at

http://www.whollygenes.com/cruise.htm

Comments by Tony Kierna

I am a big proponent of learning about genealogy research through conferences and programs. I have always recommended attending a national conference that lasts multiple days and often has hundreds of programs to pick from.

With a genealogy cruise you can combine all of the learning aspects and get a cruise thrown in as part of the experience! What a great combination!

As you can see, this is the 7th annual cruise being offered by this software developer. If the number is up that high already, it sure would appear that these genealogy cruises have sure proven successful.

It does appear that they way they organize this you will never miss out on the aspects of cruising. The conference aspects of the cruise occur during the day when the ship is at sea. Once the ship has docked at a port, there are no classes. You get full ability to enjoy the travel aspects and learning about the port you are in and visiting the port city. Seems to me like it is the best of both worlds!

You can expect to be able to attend at least 15 hours worth of lectures during this one-week cruise.

The website also indicates that these cruises nearly always sell out. So it is advisable to book early and guarantee yourself a spot.

I visited the above website and did see they have firmed out the program with all of the planned speakers. Speakers scheduled to participate on this cruise are:

- *John T. Humphrey (expert in German and Pennsylvania research)*
- *Audrey Collins (National Archives, UK, Specialist)*
- *Rick Sayre, MA, CG (expert on land records, military records, mapping)*
- *Pam Boyer Sayre, CG, CGL (expert on National Archives and computer tools)*
- *Craig Scott, MA, CG (expert on military records)*
- *Dick Eastman (expert on technology and newsletter publisher)*

Based on the website, it appears prices start at about $870 per person for an inside cabin, double occupancy to about $1,750 per person for a suite, double occupancy.

Visit the above web site for even more details on what you can expect if you participate in this genealogy conference at sea!

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Handout #8 — INTRODUCING "GENDETECTIVE" SOFTWARE

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated May 10, 2011.

The following announcement was written by RumbleSoft Incorporated:

RumbleSoft
Bridging Generations

GenDetective™ Tells you what you DON'T KNOW and what you need to FIND!

Plumsteadville, Pennsylvania (May 10, 2011) — RumbleSoft Incorporated, supplier of innovative solutions for genealogists will introduce GenDetective™ Wednesday May 11, 2011 at NGS in Charleston, South Carolina.

GenDetective™ is the first genealogy utility that can truly analyze your genealogy data today to help you discover your past. GenDetective™ is a software tool that analyzes your genealogical data to produce research recommendations based on missing or incomplete data. Up until now genealogy programs only told you what information you have. GenDetective's powerful reporting features will tell you what you DON'T KNOW, and what you need to FIND, using criteria you select for easy, organized research.

GenDetective™ has more than 170 reports that allow you to easily create targeted research itineraries that you can print or view on an iPad, iPhone, PDA, Droid smart phone or tablet (Xoom), Kindle™, eBook reader, net book (mini), or laptop.
Users agree that GenDetective™ is a huge help:

"Wow, and I thought I was detail oriented! In a matter of minutes GenDetective™ located several military service possibilities that I missed." Jesse B

"Incredible! Instead of lugging around books and binders I can now take a GenDetective™ report saved to my iPad to the court house to research only the people I am interested in." Joseph M

"I travel quite a bit for business near where my family came from. GenDetective™ allows me to print a research itinerary based on my family data for this specific region showing the information I still need to locate!" — Kevin M

RumbleSoft is the creator of the finest data analysis and reporting tools for individuals doing genealogical research. Our products are designed and created to be easy to use and offer insight to the user where additional research needs to be performed, and to present this insight in a portable manner to aid the user while they research. For more information visit the RumbleSoft Incorporated website at

http://www.rumblesoftinc.com/

Comments by Tony Kierna

It truly is nice to know what we DO NOT HAVE in our research. Sometimes, from the magnitude of information we find and enter into our lineage programs, we often become aware of what we do have, but we may not easily discover WHAT WE DO NOT HAVE because of all of the stuff!!

This product does appear to do an analysis of what you have in order to provide you with recommendations of what research efforts you may want to pursue to fill in information you do not have.

This program does appear to be of the same concept level as a product that exists today called GenSmarts.

I did visit the web site of this new product to see what information exists to help the researcher determine if this is a product for them. The web site does have some nice information to help you assess this product. I was happy to see a link at the site that was appeared to be a "Video Demo" of the product. Unfortunately, this demo has not yet been developed so the link is just a placeholder for a future demo.

There was a link at the site on "Sample Reports". This did provide a nice listing of the various reports the program is capable of producing. There are a good number of sample reports that you can look at. The program does offer a total of 170 reports. Some of the report categories listed in this section are:

- Person specific
- Family specific
- Locations
- Cemetery markers/headstones
- Obituaries
- Census
- Events
- Military Service
- Statistical
- Multimedia
- Sources
- Trip Based Research Itinerary

The site does provide an overview of what each of the above sample reports is intended to accomplish.

The researcher should know that this software is only compatible with Windows XP, Windows Vista and Windows 7. It is not compatible with Mac based software lineage programs. However, Macs that have Windows converter capabilities using software like VMWare Fusion would be able to use this product.

There is an FAQ section at the website that does have information about:

- General questions
- Installation questions
- Known installation issues

- *Error codes when running GenDetective*

The site also provides a tool free number to reach them. The number shown is 1-888-836-7047.

<mark>*The product cost is $37.95.*</mark>

With the large amount of portable, "smart type" devices that exist, it does appear that this company is developing this product so that it can be used on a multitude of devices. <mark>*GenDetective™easily creates targeted research itineraries that you can print or view on an iPod, iPhone, PDA, Droid smart phone or tablet (XOOM), Kindle™, ebook reader, netbook (mini), or laptop.*</mark>

If you have plenty of data in your lineage program, that may not be the problem. It is what you don't have that is being masked by what you do have that is the problem. Consider a software solution that will analyze what you have to point you to further research on what you do not have. Fill in all of the gaps in your research. But first you have to know what else you need to discover.

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5/25/2011

Handout #9 – VISITING GETTYSBURG FOR GENEALOGY

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the May/June 2011, Volume 15, Number 5 issue of <u>Family Chronicle</u>.

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For those of you with ancestral connections to the Civil War, the year 2011 will be a goldmine of newly published articles on this historic event. So if you have put Civil War research on the backburner, you may want to resurrect this aspect of your research during this historic year.

In this historic commemorative year of our American Civil War, I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled "Visiting Gettysburg for Genealogy" by David A. Norris. It is full of interesting facts along with many resources to shed insight on this historic Civil War battle.

According to the author, here are some interesting facts related to the battle:

- Battle took place July 1 to July 3, 1863
- 165,000 soldiers fought at the battle
- 7,000 soldiers died in the battle
- 51,000 were wounded and injured
- Gettysburg National Military Park consists of 6,000 acres
- There are 1,328 monuments in the park honoring those that fought in this battle
- The park is visited annually by about 2,000,000 visitors making it one of the top historical destinations for visitors in the country
- Admission to the park is free
- There is a fee for admission to the Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center exhibit galleries
- The Gettysburg Cemetery was dedicated on November 19, 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln from whence came the Gettysburg Address
- Approximately 3,300 Confederate soldiers that were initially buried at the Gettysburg location were disinterred and reburied in various places in the South such as Richmond, Savannah, Charleston and Raleigh

The author also provides a long list of resources that you may tap into to find out more about this famous battles and the Gettysburg location. Resources mentioned were:

- Gettysburg Convention and Visitor's Bureau @ www.gettysburg.travel/visitor/guide.asp

- Aerial view of the battlefield go to Google Maps @ http://maps.google.com and type in "Gettysburg Battlefield"
- Gettysburg National Military Park @ www.nps.gov/gett/index.htm
- Virtual tour from the Gettysburg National Military Park @ www.nps.gov/archive/gett/getttour/main-ms.htm
- Downloadable maps and materials from the National Park Service regarding Gettysburg @ www.nps.gov/history/history/park_histories/index.htm#gett
- Gettysburg Foundation @ www.gettysburgfoundation.org
- Downloadable podcasts of Gettysburg battlefield tours @ www.civilwartraveler.com/audio/podcasts.html
- Soldiers National Cemetery at Gettysburg @ www.nps.gov/archive/gett/getttour/tstops/tstd4-23.htm
- Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, VA where many Confederate killed soldiers were re-interred @ www.hollywoodcemetery.org

The author also makes note of a couple books that also shed light on the events of the battle. One is titled **A Vast Sea of Misery** by Gregory A. Coco. The book provides great detail on the various field hospitals from the days of the battles through November 1863. Hospital locations, photos of the sites and some information on the units the patients belonged to.

Another book resource mentioned by the author is one titled **Ready-Aim-Fire!: Small Arms Ammunition at the Battle of Gettysburg** by Dean S. Thomas. Insights into the weapons and the munitions used at Gettysburg are provided by the author. Observations made on the vast amount of bullets found at the battlefield are also made by the author.

If you were lucky enough to have had a Civil War ancestor, you may even be still luckier to know that the ancestor participated in this historic battle. Take a look at the entirety of this article and the varied online resources provided that I noted are in this article.

You can find this most recent issue of <u>Family Chronicle</u> on the 2nd floor magazine shelves. You can also now check out past issues of this great genealogical journal for more leisurely reading at home.

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Handout #10 – HIRING A PROFESSIONAL: DO'S AND DON'TS

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the May/June 2011, Volume 15, Number 5 issue of Family Chronicle.

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I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled "Hiring a Professional: Do's and Don'ts" by Janice Nickerson. We often try doing much of our own research but at time run into the inevitable "brick wall" that we can't seem to overcome. We may keep trying but to no avail. It is at these times we often think of possibly hiring a professional researcher with the hope that this "brick wall" will be overcome and will lead us to discovering many generations further back. Some people may be willing to pay for research services without having done much research at all. Some researchers may have just hit the point that it is better for them to pay someone in a foreign country to more easily access records on-site. No matter which researcher you are we are still faced with how to go about finding someone good and trustworthy that can help us further our own research.

The author notes that who you get for assistance depends on what you are trying to accomplish. If you are completely stymied in some aspect of your research, you may want to hire a top-notch researcher that will cost you more but may be able to get you over the hump in your research dilemma. This problem-solver and analyst may be able to break through your problem within a 10 hour amount of research time you commit to.

A different kind of research help revolves around you personally not being stumped but you simply need someone to track down records in a location that is closer to them than to you. This assistance is less costly. The person is usually known as a "record agent" who takes direction from you and does not create any research plan. The person is simply following your direction. These researchers typically charge hourly rates rather than blocks of time.

The author suggests you can find assistance by checking into the following organizations:

- Association of Professional Genealogists @ www.apgen.org
- ExpertGenealogy @ www.expertgenealogy.com

When you are ready to move forward with using a professional, be ready to ask the following:

- How long the research is expected to take?
- What kind of report you will receive?
- What fees you will be required to pay?

Hourly rates can vary a good deal. Expect that hourly work applies to all of the time spent by the researcher inclusive of such things as preparing a research plan,

carrying out research online or in archives, analyzing evidence and preparing your report. Travel time will also be factored in.

Expect to be asked for an up-front deposit amount of about 50% of the expected total cost.

Never hire more than one researcher at a time to work on the project at the same time without telling them.

Once you have hired someone, stop working on the project yourself. There is nothing more frustrating for a paid researcher than to hear from you that you have an update that might cause them to have to re-evaluate everything they have done to date.

We will be having a speaker at our library in July 2012 who will give a presentation on this very topic. Until then, take a look at the entirety of this article in full for a complete insight into the things to consider when hiring someone. Ask other fellow researchers if they have ever done this and can recommend someone. Tap in to the web sites of the two professional organizations I noted above to find information about possible researchers you may consider. Prepare your own work in a manner that if you provide the information to a researcher they won't have to re-invent the wheel because what you provided is not organized and not clear.

You can find this most recent issue of <u>Family Chronicle</u> on the 2nd floor magazine shelves. You can also now check out past issues of this great genealogical journal for more leisurely reading at home.

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