

July 12, 2011 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our July 12, 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 AUGUST 27, 2011

PLEASE NOTE THIS IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR THIS SOCIETY. THEY ARE CHANGING THE MEETING DAY, MEETING TIME AND MEETING LOCATION FOR PROGRAMS FOR THIS SOCIETY EFFECTIVE WITH THE AUGUST 2011 PROGRAM. THIS SOCIETY WILL NO LONGER BE MEETING ON THE 3RD TUESDAY EVENING OF MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER AND JANUARY-MAY AT THE FOREST VIEW EDUCATIONAL CENTER IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS. INSTEAD, THE SOCIETY WILL BE MEETING ON THE 1ST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH STARTING AT 10:00 AM AT THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SENIOR CENTER LOCATED AT 1801 WEST CENTRAL ROAD IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS. THERE IS A 30 MINUTE ROUND-TABLE HELP SESSION THAT STARTS AT 9:30 AM PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL PROGRAM.

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists will take place on Saturday morning, August 27, 2011. The program for the morning is titled **“Who Sank Grandpa’s Boat?: Passenger List Records”**. The speaker for the evening will be Daniel Niemiec.

Meetings are held at the Arlington Heights Senior Center at 1801 West Central Road in Arlington Heights. They begin at 10:00 AM with a Round-Table discussion/mingling time starting at 9:30 AM. They encourage people to bring their research problems, achievements or interesting tips to share with each other during the time prior to the program start. **The main portion of the meeting begins promptly at 10:00 AM.** Donations are always welcome! Coffee is available to attendees for a charge.

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 web page to find out further information about this program and other future programs the society has on their schedule at:

www.dcgs.org

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON JULY 16, 2011

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, July 16, 2011 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is "Hello PERSI (Periodical Source Index)". The speaker for the program will be Carol Bartlett.

Ela Area Public Library (Lake Zurich) Genealogy Specialist Carol Bartlett will introduce us to PERSI. PERSI is the largest and most widely-used subject index covering genealogy and local history periodicals written in English and French (Canada). The collection dates from about 1800 with over 1.7 million searchable records of nearly 6,000 different periodicals. PERSI is widely recognized as essential for high-quality genealogy research. Come learn how PERSI can enhance your research!

You may visit the organization web page to find out further information about this program and other future programs the society has on their schedule at:

www.CAGGNI.org

Visit the group's web site noted above for information about this program as well as what CAGG-NI is all about.

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**Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT
GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON AUGUST 9, 2011**

Our program for this evening is titled “**Searching Electronic Databases**”. Our speaker for the evening program will be Ginger Frere.

A life-long Chicagoan, Ginger Frere MBA, MLIS, has been involved in family history for the past 15+ years. She has an extensive technical and training background with years of experience introducing people to technology.

In addition to working with private clients, speaking and teaching seminars, Ginger is a reference librarian in the Genealogy and Local History Section at the Newberry Library in Chicago, where her responsibilities include providing reference services and working on digital projects. She is co-director of ChicagoAncestors.org, a free website for finding and sharing historical information about Chicago.

In 2006, Ginger was awarded the Richard S. Lackey scholarship to the National Institute on Genealogical Research (NIGR) workshop.

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 – GOOGLE ABANDONS PLANS TO ARCHIVE THE WORLD'S NEWSPAPERS

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

This sounds like a major blow to genealogists as old newspapers will no longer be accepted on Google. The web search giant has informed partners in its News Archive project that it would cease accepting, scanning, and indexing microfilm and other archival material from newspapers, and was instead focusing its energies on "newer projects that help the industry, such as Google One Pass, a platform that enables publishers to sell content and subscriptions directly from their own sites."

In an email, Google said it would continue to support the existing archives it has already scanned and indexed. However, Google does not plan to introduce any further features or functionality to the digitized news product. Google says it eventually scanned 60 million pages, covering 250 years. Many newspapers have been scanned but not yet indexed or placed online. The status of that "work in progress" remains unclear.

You can read more at: <http://goo.gl/GMpzF>.

My thanks to Roger Bartlett for telling me about this story.

Comments by Tony Kierna

This is a blow to genealogy researchers knowing that no more material will be added to this wonderful existing collection of material. Google has its own future plans relating to its business model and the scanning and digitization of this material is no longer part of their business plan.

I would certainly hope that whatever Google has in the pipelines on material that has already been scanned but not indexed will be completed and added to the material it has available online. That would be a waste to at least not complete material on hand. So let's hope that material is completed.

Based on the article contained in the above link, speculation exists that Google is leaving this effort because the effort to digitize and index the material may have simply been too difficult to accomplish in a cost-effective and quality manner. Newsprint is difficult to scan and produce good results because of the nature of a newspaper with columns and unique layouts. Special scanning software had to be created to account for all of these variances thus adding to the cost.

I can certainly attest to the results I often encounter when searching through indexed newspaper material that is online. My surname KIERNA often gives me results that may look promising on the surface. However, when I investigate these "hits" I more often discover that what I thought was a KIERNA hit turns out to actually be a KIERNAN name in print. The last "N" in KIERNAN was not picked up in the indexing process thus leaving me with a potential "good" hit for the name KIERNA. Newsprint can be and is tough to scan and index properly. Ink may have

different subtleties of lightness or darkness on specific letters within the words often causing these incorrect scans versus the indexing of what it thinks it scanned.

So while this is a sad event that no more new material will be added, the fact that 60 million pages covering 250 years has been completed can still keep the genealogy researcher plenty busy searching through this material even if it is full of "mishits" as I mentioned above.

It is always hopeful that the next "hit" you look at will be a correct "hit" that you were never aware of even though it may only be 1 good hit out of a 100. That is what keeps researchers going!

Visit Google's News site and try searching it if you have not been there. You can get to this great site that has all of this newsworthy material at:

<http://news.google.com/nwshp?hl=en&tab=wn>

Enter in your search term and see what you get. Once you see results you can then alter your search input to select the Archives and fine tune your search even more according to the subdivisions of time periods offered by Google.

Even without new material being added, I think you will find plenty already there to keep you busy for a long time researching the news about your ancestors from this vast collection of digitized newspaper material.

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Handout #7 – NEW FAMILYSEARCH TECHTIPS WEBSITE BRINGS TOGETHER GENEALOGY AND TECHNOLOGY

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated June 8, 2011.

I believe this is a major announcement. As readers of this newsletter already know, using technology is not necessary to research one's family tree but it certainly can help! FamilySearch has been involved in providing genealogy information for decades. Now the same organization is assembling technical information on a new web site with the purpose of providing helpful information to you and to everyone else interested in genealogy. The following announcement was written by FamilySearch:

Genealogy has been a popular hobby for over a century, but the pursuit of one's ancestors is now a decidedly technology-intensive endeavor. To help family historians take advantage of the latest technology, FamilySearch has launched a new section on its FamilySearch.org website called FamilySearch TechTips. The goal of TechTips is to continue building a bridge between the developing worlds of technology and genealogy, according to FamilySearch product marketing manager Jim Ericson.

"For someone who is already excited about family history, FamilySearch TechTips can introduce them to technologies that will help them climb their family tree," Ericson said. "Those who may not be familiar with genealogy, but are technology enthusiasts, can learn how products can be applied to family history."

Ericson said visitors to FamilySearch TechTips can read about a variety of subjects, such as how to store photographs for the long term, what mobile applications are available for family historians, how to share files and how to scan images. The site also contains step-by-step guides to help users accomplish a technology-related task, like how to join an online research community and why.

FamilySearch TechTips is a community effort that is a cross between a blog and an online technology magazine. Anyone can contribute articles and share their personal experiences. The TechTips articles don't endorse specific products, although they may mention what is available in the marketplace. There will also be content on new technology or trends that impact the world of genealogy.

"People can learn where genealogy technology is headed and how technology may evolve in the future to make life easier for family historians," Ericson said.

The new TechTips section of FamilySearch is available at

<https://www.familysearch.org/techtips/>

Comments by Tony Kierna

WOW! You have to take a look at this newly created website by FamilySearch. It certainly does look like a great place to visit for anyone having any questions about

how to do something that is technologically related to the genealogy research they are doing.

When you simply visit the site you will find the following "tabs" across the top of the home web page:

- *How To's and Tips*
- *Learn About*
- *Helpful Apps and Tools*
- *Learn How to Buy*
- *Viewpoint*

If you open up list of items under "How To's and Tips" you will find the following links to take you to further information:

- *Collaborating with Others*
- *Managing Your Data*
- *Working with Digital Media*
- *Researching Online*
- *Photography*
- *Using Mobile Devices for Genealogy*
- *Staying Safe*
- *Accessing the Internet*

If you open up the list of items under "Learn About" you will find the following links to take you to further information:

- *File Formats*
- *Mapping and Geolocation*
- *Preservation*
- *Scientific Research*
- *Social Media*

If you open up the list of items under "Helpful Apps and Tools" you will find the following links to take you to further information:

- *Browser Plug-Ins*
- *E-mail Add Ons*
- *Image Tools*
- *Mac Apps*
- *Phone Apps*
- *Printing Utilities*
- *Web Apps*
- *Windows Apps*

I think you get the idea of the variety of topics you can find under the categories that have been created that are technologically oriented.

This is like a blog in that "articles" on the topics are submitted and identified as to the author. Dick Eastman noted in his reporting on this that "anyone can contribute" to the material. My only problem with that is that I was unable to find anywhere on the site how one contributes to this great repository. I also did not see a nicely identified "Home" tab at the site to get me back to the starting point until I

discovered that in the upper left corner of the first page of the site is the "Home" link although it is identified as "TechTips". Once I saw that I could get back to the beginning and browse the site from the beginning.

You can also use the site according to additional categories formulated by the site such as "Popular Posts", "Helpful Apps and Tools" and "Article Series". You can also enter in a search term to access material containing the keyword of your search. This search box is right at the top of the site. Your results do not have the search term "highlighted" so you will need to do a "Find On This Page" from within your web browser to find the term in the article presented. No big deal!

This certainly looks like a work in progress. It is already impressive with what is there. I know I can sure learn a thing or two based on some of the topics that I saw for which I know very little e.g. social media such as Facebook, Twitter etc.

I recommend visiting the site and bookmarking it for future access. It does look that good. Dick Eastman was right on the mark that the announcement of this site from FamilySearch is in fact "big" news.

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Handout #8 – CYNDIS LIST LAUNCHES A NEWLY REDESIGNED WEBSITE

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated June 7, 2011.

The following announcement was written by Cyndi Ingle Howells, owner of Cyndi's List at <http://www.cyndislist.com>:

A major upgrade to celebrate 15 years of service

EDGEWOOD, WASHINGTON (June 6, 2011) – Cyndi's List is proud to announce a newly upgraded web site. With improved navigation, a custom database, and a custom administrative interface, the upgrade means that everything will be quicker and easier for both visitors and for the site's owner and administrator, Cyndi Ingle Howells. The upgrade has been done by fusionSpan of Maryland. Their staff worked closely with Cyndi to make improvements and to implement new technology and new ideas designed specifically for Cyndi's List and for the genealogical community. Part of the upgrade was made possible by donations from generous users of Cyndi's List. To date, 20% of what was accomplished in the project was thanks to them. Donors have been listed on the web site.

What's New with the Upgrade:

- The front page of the Cyndi's List site has a rolling genealogy news feed and a link to The Cyndi's List Daily, a daily dose of family history news as tagged in Twitter and Facebook. Start each day with the front page of Cyndi's List and read the current genealogy news stories.
- The links are now contained within a database and pages will be dynamically loaded on each visit.
- The custom database and administration interface means that maintaining the link list will be much easier for Cyndi, which ultimately benefits the user with faster and more frequent updates.
- The new interface means that the backlog of uncategorized links can be processed much faster. The goal is to get the entire backlog done by the end of this year.
- New links will be reviewed, approved, and categorized within 24-72 hours after submission by visitors.
- Updates made to Cyndi's List will be immediately available to the public.
- Previous to the upgrade, the "What's New" page and mailing list post contained only new links submitted by visitors. The new "What's New" page and e-mail will contain those, as well as links added to the site during the day by Cyndi, *and* existing links that have been updated throughout the site (new addresses, updated descriptions, etc.).
- Across the site links have been labeled with graphics as "new" or "updated" when appropriate. With the upgrade these will now be text-based notations (easily spotted in green), which means that you can search on a page for "new" or "updated" with the Edit>Find function in your web browser.
- Now sub-categories within a category heading each have their own page. And each page displays 20 links, with pagination in place to go to the next page

- and so on. This means there will be a lot less scrolling through long pages as in the past. Shorter pages mean faster load time in the browser as well.
- Intuitive navigation at the top of the category makes it easy to find your way to previous category headings.
 - The number of links within each category/sub-category is displayed at the top right on each page.
 - Each of the U.S. counties (more than 3,100) now has a designated page of its own.
 - URLs (addresses) for the pages have changed so bookmarks, favorites, and links to Cyndi's List will need to be updated.
 - Opportunities to shop, support, or donate are highlighted on each page.

What Has Stayed the Same?

- The category and sub-category names are all the same.
- Related Categories are highlighted at the top right on each category.
- The layout and format of the links are the same.
- The policies, procedures, and disclaimers for maintaining the link list are the same.
- The Cyndi's List Mailing List will still distribute a daily What's New e-mail and a daily Link Activity e-mail. However, the What's New e-mail will contain information about all new and updated links.
- You can still follow Cyndi's List on Facebook and Twitter.
- The purpose and intent of Cyndi's List is to be a free jumping-off point for your daily genealogical research.
- Cyndi's List remains free for everyone to use just as it has for the past 15 years.
- This is still just a one-woman show!

"I started doing genealogy research in earnest back in 1998 and Cyndi's List has always been one of my very favorite websites. It is on my 'Go To' list because I always find so much good information there." --Kay F.

"I've relied on your website as THE best resource on the 'net to help with my research..." --Jan J.

"Where can you get at all things genealogical in one fell swoop? Everyone knows it's CyndisList.com. Every genealogist who uses the web MUST use Cyndi's List." --Polly K.

About CyndisList.com

CyndisList.com is the world's largest one-woman family history resource, with more than 300,000 categorized links for genealogical research. For more than 15 years Cyndi's List has helped hundreds of thousands of people with their online journey to trace their family history. The site averages 275,000 unique visitors and 5,000,000 page hits every month. Cyndi's List has won numerous awards and consistently remains one of the top genealogical portals for beginners, intermediate, and veteran researchers.

About fusionSpan

fusionSpan is a start-up consulting firm focused on serving the comprehensive needs of non-profit associations and commercial organizations in the full range of the business cycle. With a core staff of highly experienced professionals from non-profit associations and a team approach to most consulting projects, fusionSpan will be able to offer a more balanced quality service and sustainable solution than many of its competitors. Our expertise covers the entire range of the web site and application development process: Strategy, Design, Development, Hosting, and Maintenance. For more information, visit www.fusionSpan.com

Comments by Tony Kierna

It is amazing how long-lived this early on Internet site is. Way before digitizations and indexes of material online, there was Cyndis List going back to circa 1996. Even back then, Cyndi may have touted her site with containing tens of thousands of genealogical links. If you were looking for some Internet information back in 1996 on anything genealogy, Cyndis List is where you went to look. She started with 1,025 links back in 1996. Cyndis List is where you should still be going to find links to topics in genealogy. The site was free to access in 1996 and it is still free to access. No subscription or cost to the user then or now!

Today, Cyndis List can claim links to approximately 305,000 genealogically related sites of information to help the researcher. And we thought we were overwhelmed when we knew Cyndis List had links to 60,000 sites!!

I thought it was very insightful to see how Cyndi is looked upon in the genealogical community to know that approximately 20% of the cost of this new massive refresh of her web site was covered by loyal followers who contributed donations to Cyndi to make this change possible. Their names are duly noted within her newly redesigned site! Just click on the link at the top of the page that says "Why Donate to Cyndis List".

You can browse the "categories" alphabetically to see what topic is of interest to you. As you keep flowing deeper to material within the categories, you will now see a nice green identified highlight that may say "new" or "updated". This will help your eyes to find material that is now new in her list or has been updated. That is a nice feature and it is easy to spot.

Much of what was redesigned was to make the process easier for Cyndi to do what she does but to do it faster and easier for her. The long list above that was in Dick Eastman's blog post about this change clearly identifies all of the things that have been done to make the site better. Many of the things that already worked well were kept so the user does not have to really learn how to use the site if they have visited it in the past.

At the main entry point to the site, the viewer will see on the left sidebar a listing of the important actions as "purple" tables the viewer take actions. You will see the following:

- *Categories*
- *Follow Us (Facebook, Twitter, Tell A Friend, Cyndis Blog)*
- *Mailing List*
- *Browse New Links*

- *Submit a New Link*
- *Report a Broken Link*
- *Update a Link*

*If you have never been to Cyndis List, now is the time to check it out. With 305,000 links here I have no doubt you will find something of interest at a high level or once you find a topic of interest you will easily discover links you never even knew existed. **Get to Cyndis List at www.cyndislist.com**. Give it a try or give it a re-visit if you have not been there in a while. Either way, I know you will come away with some new insights in your research area from the series of links maintained by Cyndi across a myriad of topics and subjects.*

Happy hunting!

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Handout #9 – THINKING IN SOUNDEX

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the April-June 2011, Volume 37, Number 2 issue of NGS Magazine.

A good article in this issue is one titled "Thinking in Soundex". The author of this article is Claire Prechtel-Klusken.

In today's access to online material, many researchers simply enter a name into an online U.S. Census database and lo and behold accurate results pop up. Their searching is complete and successful. If only every search would be that successful. What about when you enter a surname and do not get any good results? Then what? It all comes down to spelling and how the data was entered into the database index.

But when searching census data, the researcher should become familiar with what Soundex is and what it tried to accomplish as it applied to the 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930 censuses. Soundex is a phonetically based indexing system developed and patented by Robert Russell. In 1936 the Bureau of the Census chose the Soundex system as the means of organizing its new Works Progress Administration (WPA) created card index for the 1900 Census.

Soundex is based on phonics: similar sounding consonants are coded the same way so that similar sounding surnames get the same Soundex code. The author points out that while we may get good results from surname searching, knowing about the Soundex methodology can give us some creative search strategies that incorporate the use of phonics on names we are searching and having no luck in finding.

Our Illinois driver's license is based on then Soundex coding system. It all starts with the first letter of the surname. With KIERNA, you get a Soundex code of K650. The first letter of the Soundex code is the first letter of your last name. But a key point made by the author is to know how like sounding consonants are grouped together because if you have the first letter of the last name wrong, you may not find it. The author uses the example surname CLANCY. If you cannot find the name as it is, consider using alternate starting letters of G, J, K, Q, S, X, Z. So in this case consider KLANCY or GLANCY as a substitute search, because again the names in Soundex are done phonetically.

The article provides many other examples on alternatives we should consider if we can't find our ancestor's using a straight up surname search. The author suggest the following categories of possible errors for us to consider and substitute different search terms all based on knowing the Soundex to a greater depth. Categories mentioned are:

- **Initial consonant dropping.** Using CLANCY, maybe the initial consonant was dropped, so considering using LANCY as a search term.
- **Middle consonant substitution.** CLANCY and CLAMCY give the same Soundex code. POTTER and PORTER give different Soundex codes.

- **Middle consonant dropping.** WESTURN and WESTON give different Soundex codes. STEVENSON and STEVESON give different Soundex codes.
- **End consonant substitution.** CHERNOW and CHERNOV give different Soundex codes.
- **End consonant dropping.** MILLARD and MILLER give different Soundex codes. SIMMS and SIMM, PARKER and PARK, also give different Soundex codes.
- **End consonant addition.** Reverse of the above. MILLER recorded as MILLARD, SIMMS recorded as SIMM give different Soundex codes.
- **Syllable dropping.** CARTER for MCCARTER, and vice versa MCCARTER for CARTER

The examples provided by the author are meant to put the creative search idea in your own mind when you cannot find your ancestors where you believe they are in the U.S. Census. This is one of those articles that is worth making a personal copy for reference. **Not only are the ideas great but the author includes a nice Soundex Coding Guide for the reader to really learn about the process of Soundexing.** Knowing about this and how names interacted with this system can make the researcher more creative when doing surname searches when matched results are not found immediately.

Expand your search skills. Know more about Soundex and you may find more of your "missing" ancestors in the Census.

This is another good issue of NGS Magazine. Give it a good look, especially if you want to take a look at the full articles I summarized or if any of the other articles in this issue are of interest to you.

You can find this most recent issue of NGS Magazine on the 2nd floor of our library on the magazine shelves. Remember, Schaumburg Township District Library cardholders can now also check out "older" issues of this journal to take home.

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Handout #10 – THE NEW LOOK OF FAMILYSEARCH

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the June/July 2011, Volume 6, Number 2 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled "The New Look of Family Search" by Leslie Albrecht Huber. The main point of this article is that if you have not recently visited the Family Search site at www.familysearch.org you will be in for a surprise when you next visit the site. Much has changed in the appearance of the site since you last visited it if that has been a while. This is a site that requires frequent visiting because of the constant changes that occur and the constant amount of additional material that is added. If you do frequently visit the site then the changes you see will not really be a surprise.

As the author explains, initial responses to the changes seen at the site were pretty high. But most of the complaints were from users of the site not being able to find the normal links and services in the same places they could be found at the old site. We are all resistant to change, so this early response was not unexpected. Once users familiarized themselves to where things were at the site, they became much more positive in their comments on the redesigned site. If you are still not happy with the redesign you see, Family Search still makes available a link to the "old" site. However, the researcher must understand that the material at the old site is just that. New additions of material are being added to the newly redesigned site and not to the old site. Your best bet is to "bite the bullet" and become familiar with the new site since it offers so much more. The "old" site will not last forever. It will ultimately be discontinued. But for now, the old site is available.

There will be a truly "new" FamilySearch.org site that will be open to all. Currently the site at www.new.familysearch.org is only open to members of the LDS Church at this time. They are the ones that are the beta testers for the new site. So even when you see the newly redesigned site at www.familysearch.org, be aware that there is still a "new" site that will replace the newly redesigned site. Be flexible as this unfolds in the future. We will ultimately see that a new massive family tree exists at this site, combining together many of the standard FamilySearch databases. The tree will also contain "living" people that will only be visible to those directly related to the individual. Keep your eyes and ears open in the future for the accessibility to this truly "new" Family Search.org.

Visiting the current site at www.familysearch.org, the researcher will see changes to the site. The author notes you will see these changes:

- Establishment of a Research Wiki
- New Family History Library Catalog
- Additional models for searching original records.

In the original site the researcher could find tabs at the top of the page that would lead them to find Research Aids and Research Guidance. Through these links you could find Research Aids to help you on your search quest if you were researching ancestors in a given state like Illinois or Wisconsin or if you were interested in researching an ancestor from a foreign country like Germany or England or Poland. These aids would help you understand the basic ins and outs of the state or country of choice. You could get a small history lesson and an idea of the resources that exist for that particular location for you to tap into to begin finding your ancestors in that particular location. To find this material today you will need to simply click on the "Learn" link on the top of the main page you see. The learning material is contained in the new Wiki. You can register yourself and be a contributor to the Wiki itself. That is the function of the Wiki. Information does not just come from one source, but from many knowledgeable contributors.

The biggest change the researcher will see with the new catalog is that it is being expanded to provide much more information than just a microfilm number that existed in the old catalog. You may now begin to find links in the search results that will take you to other resources pertinent to the material contained as a result of your first search. The Family Search team even hopes to provide links with the catalog entries for a place name search that will be outside of information contained in the Family History Library itself. So one day you may be presented with all kinds of resource material for a particular place that you may not have even know existed. All this will come from a search of the Family History Library Catalog when looking for a particular place associated with your own ancestors.

The researcher now has the ability to search records held by the FHL that have been digitized and indexed with the assistance of thousands and thousands of volunteers. This is going to be the future of FamilySearch as researchers will gain more and more access to millions and billions of records online and for free through FamilySearch.org. Today you will find this material in various states of accessibility. Some data is fully indexed and linked to the images of the records itself. You would see this if you viewed the material for Cook County, Illinois Birth Certificates. You can enter in surname of interest, search the material and if any hits come up for the surname, you will be able to actually see the image of the birth certificate.

Some material you will only see that a name gives you a hit but there is no image linked yet to the surname. This is still very helpful because the fields of info ration that were captured are still listed. So you may see far more than just the surname of the person of interest.

Some material you will see only provides you with images of the records themselves but no indexing of names has yet taken place. These images are generally at a very low level of a geographic area such as a town. So if you know an ancestor is from that town or village, you will then be able to browse through the image material as if it were an online microfilm. You could still advance your research in this manner even when the surnames are still not indexed.

The author does a good job of describing all of the new changes you will encounter at the newly redesigned www.familysearch.org website. Read the entirety of the article and use it as a good guide to become familiar with the newly redesigned web site. Do not be left behind at what exists at this site. Learn about the new material that exists and how to find it. Visit the site frequently to see what new digitized records have been added since you last visited.

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