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August 9, 2011

August 9, 2011 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our August 9, 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 <u>NO LONGER</u> 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 **"Using Non-Federal Civil War Records in Family History Research"**. The speaker for the program will be Craig Pfannkuche.

Craig Pfannkuche is President of Memory Trail Research, Inc. since 1993, and is the Genealogical Archivist for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Historical Society since 1984. He is on the Board of Directors of the McHenry County, Illinois Genealogical Society & the Chicago Genealogical Society. He has presented numerous workshops in history, historical & genealogical research & archaeological techniques at both the local and national level.

Please note that this meeting will take place at the DuPage County Historical Museum, Upstairs Meeting Room. The address of the Museum is 102 East Wesley St. in Wheaton, IL 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 AUGUST 20, 2011

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, August 20, 2011 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"World War I Draft Cards: Don't Do Research Without It"**. The speaker for the program will be Tim Pinnick.

The time has come to take a SERIOUS look at a valuable resource--the World War I draft registration card. In addition to holding a few pieces of information you don't find in most of your standard sources, they function as another resource with which one can compare basic information you have already gathered on an individual. And, when looked at as part of a larger set, their usefulness is greatly enhanced, as they can help the researcher in locating additional geographic areas to research, identify current employers and probable ones, and hone in on migration patterns and time frames.

Tim Pinnick is a lecturer and family historian with more than 25 years overall research experience including all the major U.S. repositories, published book and magazine author, current board member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, past instructor at the summer Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, Samford University, past presenter at both NGS and FGS conferences.

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 SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

We will have another "break-out" session for our gathering in September 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 in September 2011.

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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 – FAMILY HISTORY SHOW ON YOUTUBE

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at <u>www.eogn.com</u> dated July 17, 2011.

Nick Barratt and Laura Berry of *Your Family History* magazine (www.your-familyhistory.com), a British publication, have created a series of videos that are now available on YouTube. These videos are available to viewers worldwide.

Dr. Nick Barratt is a professional genealogist well-known for is best known for his role as genealogical consultant for series 1 to 4 of the BBC show *Who Do You Think You Are?*. Barratt is also the CEO of Sticks Research Agency and personal heritage site Nations Memory Bank. He also presents *Live the Dream: As Seen on TV* with Melissa Porter. He also is Editor-in-chief of Your Family History magazine

Laura Berry was a researcher on the Channel 4 series *Not Forgotten*, and went on to provide archive research for *History Mysteries* (BBC2), *Family Ties* (BBC4), *So You Think You're Royal?* (Sky One) and numerous national newspaper and magazine articles. In 2006 she undertook the Researcher's Survival Course with Pact.training and became the principal archive and media researcher for The History Channel's 'Hidden House History' series. Laura co-ordinated the genealogical team for the fourth series of *Who Do You Think You Are?* (BBC1), and appeared on-screen with actor John Hurt. Other on-screen appearances as an archive expert include *History Mysteries* (BBC2), *BBC South East Today* (BBC1) and a live interview on *BBC Breakfast* to promote the John Hurt programme. Laura also worked on the first *Who Do You Think You Are?* episode in Ireland (RTE1). She also is Editor of Your Family History magazine.

As you might guess, this team is highly qualified to produce online videos!

The new series promises to present news stories of the latest events in the world of genealogy (with a heavy emphasis on U.K. events). Amongst the first episodes is an interview with with the last living Titanic survivor, Millvina Dean, videotaped shortly before she died in 2009. Other stories already available cover researching royal ancestry. The team also promises to interview leading historians and genealogists in future episodes.

You can watch The Family History Show videos at

> http://www.youtube.com/familyhistoryshow

Comments by Tony Kierna

As you know, I am a big believer in taking advantage of online learning courses related to enhancing your genealogical research skills. Here is another online source via YouTube to tap into online videos to help your research.

This Family History Show does have a "British" bent to it because the producers of the material have a BBC connection.

Currently the website has "Show 1" containing 4 items. *Item 1 is an "introduction", Item 2 is a 7 minute video on "People Detectives", Item 3 is an exclusive interview with the last remaining survivor of the titanic (at the time) and Item 4 is a video on the latest news in Genealogy.*

Most of the videos run anywhere from a minute to about 7 minutes in length.

They are well put together. The videos are well shot.

Because this project has just started there are only 4 of the videos available to look at. *More and more will be added over time.*

Currently, about 1,800 views of the videos have taken place. There are 102 subscribers to the online material.

Bookmark the above site and visit it frequently. Keep up with online videos on genealogy and your own research efforts may improve as learn about new things in the world of genealogy.

The videos at this site definitely look to be put together by professionals, as the two individuals are. The video material is definitely not amateurish.

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7/27/2011

Handout #7 – NEW ONE STEP TUTORIAL FROM STEVE MORSE ON THE UPCOMING 1940 CENSUS AND CENSUS LOCATIONAL TOOL

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated June 29, 2011.

This sounds like a great tool! The following announcement was written by Steve Morse and Joel Weintraub:

In less than 10 months the 1940 US Population Schedules will become public. It will not be name indexed, so it will be necessary to do an address search in order to find families. Address searching involves knowing the ED (enumeration district) in which the address is located. The National Archives (NARA) earlier this year indicated they had plans to make available in 2011 the 1940 ED maps of cities and counties, and ED descriptions, but their recent move to consider having a 3rd party host all the images may have appreciably set back this timetable.

The only website that currently has location tools for the 1940 census is the Steve Morse One Step site (http://stevemorse.org). There are several such tools there, and it could be overwhelming to figure out which tool to use when. There is a tutorial that attempts to clarify it (http://stevemorse.org/census/intro.html) and an extensive FAQ (http://stevemorse.org/census/faq.htm).

We are announcing the opening of another educational utility to help people learn about the different 1940 locational search tools on the One Step site, and information about the 1940 census itself. It is in the form of a quiz, and should help many, many genealogists quickly learn how to search an unindexed census by location. The new utility is at: http://stevemorse.org/census/quiz.php and is called "How to Access the 1940 Census in One Step". Not only is it informative, we hope it is entertaining.

Thanks

Joel Weintraub
Steve Morse

Comments by Tony Kierna

Get excited! The 1940 Census release is coming in less than 10 months! Remember, just a few years ago it felt like the release of the 1940 census data was eons away. Not any more!

When the data is released it will not be indexed as a database on Ancestry.com or anywhere else immediately. Those organizations will have to obtain the material and begin the name indexing process as they have done with other Census material. So the tool above will help you to be able to locate Enumeration District (ED) information so that you can then work with the microfilms from the National Archives containing the data before anything is available online.

One of the locational tools above will allow you to discover the Enumeration District (ED) for an ancestor, assuming you do know the address they were living at the time of the census. The tool is extremely easy to use. You first select whether you want the 1900 to 1940 Census. You are asked to select the State from a prepared, then select the City from a prepared list, then select the Street your ancestor lived at from a prepared listing, then select two cross streets to the street from prepared lists. After all of the information is entered, the locational tool calculates the ED your ancestor is in for the census. So if you are familiar with an area supplying all of the above is easy. If you are not, look at a map of the streets and use the street names you see.

For my parents who lived on North Paulina Street in Chicago in 1940, with cross streets of Cortland Street and Bloomingdale Avenue, the tool gave me an ED of 103-1992, Film Series T627, Roll 985 for Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

With the above, I can immediately focus on where the material for my research can be obtained from in microfilm format, or I will also know what to focus on when the material is released online.

Knowing the ED level can help you to access the online material of that ED when for some reason your search term of the surname is not producing any results. You can then browse your way image by image through ED 103-1992 visually looking to find the address of question and to see if perhaps your ancestors names may have been mis-indexed. In essence, you can view the material as if you were browsing through an online microfilm just like we used to do in days past!

This tool is not only for the 1940 Census. The tool can be used for the 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 and 1940 Census.

For those of you doing Chicago, Cook County research, make sure you take into account the street numbering change that occurred in 1909 prior to the 1910 census when street numbers were realigned. If you know that an ancestor lived at XXXX N. Paulina in 1900, they will be shown at YYYY N. Paulina in 1910. They will not have moved, the numbers for the address will have changed.

Although we are talking about the 1940 Census, take advantage of the locational tool to work on the 1900 to 1930 census if you have been having a hard time discovering your ancestors in the online census material. You are probably correct in knowing where they may have lived, but for some reason using an online search with their surname is not producing any results. Use the tool, find the ED and then try finding the ED online and browse through it page by page as if it were a microfilm, looking for the ancestor on the image and not relying for the spelling as it is in the database.

This is a great tool that you must permanently bookmark for yourself for future ongoing use as you need it.

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Handout #8 – FAMILY TREE MAKER WEBSITE GETS A NEW LOOK

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

A web site with a lot of genealogy information has been re-modeled. In an article in the Ancestry.com blog, Tana L. Pedersen writes:

If you haven't visited FamilyTreeMaker.com recently, it's time to take another look. Recently, Family Tree Maker launched its newly redesigned website with simplified navigation and more features to help you find answers to your questions.

Here are a few highlights:

- A tour of the software shows some of the key features and tools available in Family Tree Maker.
- A "tips and tricks" section helps users of all levels be more productive.
- An updated FAQ answers questions about sharing files, upgrading the software, and more.
- A learning center gives you quick access to webinars, message boards, and tutorials.

You might want to visit http://www.FamilyTreeMaker.com.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Family Tree Maker is one of the most widely used and popular genealogy lineage programs to enter in your research work. They have redesigned the web site where you can access all kinds of helpful material on the product.

Tabs at the top of the home page for site are:

- *Home*
- *Take A Tour*
- *Products*
- *Learning Center*
- *Technical Support*
- *Shop*
- *Ancestry.com*

There is a nice simple introductory tour under "Take A Tour" in which you will see images of what the product shows you on the computer screen.

Under the "Products" Tab you will see information about the Windows version as well as the Mac version of Family Tree Maker. I especially like the bottom of this page that connects you to some very nice Tutorials on Family Tree Maker according to the following topics:

- *Workspaces*
- *Building (Family)*

- *Building (Person)*
- *Places*
- *Media*
- *Sourcing*
- *Publish*
- *Web Search*

If you are ever struggling with an aspect of using Family Tree Maker, this is definitely a spot you want to visit to see if any of these tutorials can solve your issue.

I especially like the Learning Center Tab. In this tab you can get access to Tutorials, Webinars, the Blog, and Message Boards, all great resources to advance your knowledge and learning skills related to using Family Tree Maker.

At the Technical Support Tab you can:

- *Get Help*
- *Upgrade to a Current Version*
- *Upgrade Your Software*
- *Access the Knowledge Base*
- *Convert Files Between PC and Mac*

I like the simple and direct layout of the site, quickly being able to get to the various Tabs.

I am a big believer in the Learning Tab and all of the videos and webinars you can access at this site. You can really learn a lot about how to do things with Family Tree Maker and genealogy in general via the videos.

If you are a Family Tree Maker user make sure you visit the site for more than just hearing that a new version of the product has been made. Take advantage of all of the learning material that exists at this site to help you be a better user of a very powerful product. The more you know about the product and how to use it, the better you will be in being able to manage all of your research material that you enter into Family Tree Maker.

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Handout #9 – WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the July/August 2011, Volume 15, Number 6 issue of Family Chronicle.

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I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled "What's in a Name" by Diane L. Richard. This is one of those universal research dilemmas we all encounter. We know our ancestor's name, we know he should be in a list of records but we are unable to find him using the searching methods we are familiar with. The author does a good job on giving us some insights and tips on what we should consider in our strategies to discover the names as they actually may have been entered into some record-keeping file, not as we knew of the names.

The author suggests we consider the following that could be causing us problems:

- **Initials and Other Permutations of Name Presentation**

    o Some census takers economized their writing and used initials for a person's first name and middle name.

    o How about the case where three brothers all had first names starting with the same letter and these were shown as just initials on the records.

    o Be aware that middle initials of a person's name can be reversed with the initial of the first name really causing a big switch that can prevent you from finding the person.

    o Try to use age, occupation, birth location and any other identifier when you encounter initials and not a full first name.

- **Forename or Middle Name or Nickname**

    o Watch out for ancestors that may have used their first name interchangeably with their middle name and then compounded it more by also using these names with initials only.

        ▪ W. C. Norris whose name was seen as W. Chester Norris, Chester Norris, William C. Norris

    o Don't forget to consider nicknames in your search if you know of some

        ▪ The name "Margaret" can also be found as Peggy, Maggie, Madge, Margie, Meg, Margot, Marguerita, Rita, Greta, Gretel, Gretchen, Marjorie, Margery, May, Daisy (I can only hope you do not have an ancestor with the basic name "Margaret"!)

- **Dropping "Mac", "Mc", "O" etc**.

  - Over time some names may have lost their "prefix" identifier but they may have been known with the identifier at the time the records were created. Take this into account.

  - Take into account "spacing" of the "Mac" etc. when searching. In times past, the "Mac" may have been followed by a space where today it flows right into the balance of the name without a space.

- **Phonetic Spelling**

  - Always consider searching for a name not by the way you know it is spelled today but by how it sounds. Clerks who heard the name spoken to them spelled it as they heard it without checking with the provider as to the correct spelling, especially if no signature by the provider of the name was needed.

  - Think of the original name "Carroll"
    - Carrel
    - Carrell
    - Carrole
    - Carille
    - Carol
    - Carrall
    - Caral

  - Consider the vowels as "e", "a" and "o" both for sounding and spelling
    - Raino
    - Rayno
    - Rono
    - Reno
    - Rano
    - Reyno
    - Reynes

- **Transcriber/Abstractor Errors**

  - With more and more data appearing online realize that it gets there often through transcribing. Someone is looking at the original document or a copy of it and is making their best effort to transcribe it correctly. Handwriting can be extremely difficult and the end result is that you may know what you are looking for in a name for which you may have some familiarity, but the transcriber can only transcribe as best as he can figure out the handwriting.

  - Consider the close look-alikes in writing for:
    - i and l
    - h and l

- - e and a
  - e and a and o

- **Surname Confusion with Another Surname**

  - Andrews and Anders, close but not the same

- **Translations of Names from One Language to Another**

  - "Greenleaf" as a name today could have come from the French "Vertefeuille" because in French it translates to Greenleaf.

  - "Flowers: as a name today could have come from the Polish "Kwiatkowski" because in Polish it translates to Flowers.

This is a very good article that should get you thinking about all of the variants you could encounter to help explain why you may be having trouble finding ancestors in databases if you only use a name search as you know it today. The author certainly presents us with some good tips on we may have to manipulate the name search we are doing to account for all of the problems and challenges we may encounter in finding those ancestors.

Be creative!

Be innovative!

Be flexible!

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Handout #10 – FOLLOW THE MONEY FOR ACCURATE RESULTS

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the July/August 2011, Volume 15, Number 6 issue of Family Chronicle.

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I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled "Follow the Money for Accurate Results" by Donna Murray. The author suggests we incorporate into our research those types of records that had something to do with "money" as it related to the paper trails of our ancestors. Sometimes it was money they may actually have received. Sometimes it was money they actually had to pay. Sometimes it was "free" stuff they could have obtained that could then have been worth actual money to them at a later date if they fulfilled the requirements after having received it for free.

The author suggests some of the records for consideration where "money" may be involved in the lives of our ancestors:

- **Wills and Probate Records**

  o With wills you can often see evidence of kinship e.g. spouses, children, siblings etc. that you may not have been able to discover elsewhere.

  o Guardianships can also be discovered when surviving children are impacted with the death of a parent.

  o Perhaps wills bequeath property to someone in a country from which the ancestor may have come from. You may never have been able to discover the place of origin previously but a will may provide this connection.

  o You may be able to gleam the wealth of a deceased ancestor based on how much "stuff" was mentioned in the will.

  o If a person dies without a will, the laws of the state still allow for the formal distribution of assets according to the laws of the state. Just because an ancestor is assumed to have been poor and having no assets to dispense, still look into the paper trail that may have been left behind to uncover all of the non-monetary information that may be contained in the will.

- **Homestead Records**

  o Your ancestor may have been able to take advantage of obtaining 160 acres of land for "free" back in 1862 going forward. The Homestead Act was passed providing this

provided the recipient agreed to cultivate the land, build a home and stay there for at least 5 years.

- These land applications are on file with the National Archives. You may be able to rediscover an ancestor that somehow just disappeared from one location and was not found again. This free land would have caused him to relocate.

- **Social Security Death Index**

  - In order to obtain this money an ancestor would have had to register with Social Security.

  - The application should have contained information on the parents of the applicant, information you may not have been able to previously uncover, including maiden name of the mother.

  - The death date of a recipient can be obtained from Social Security as well as the location of the last check mailed to the recipient.

- **Military Records – Pensions, Bounty Land Warrants, War Bonuses**

  - Those who often served in times past were given reward for their service.

  - Pensions were often full of paper trails to prove that the recipient of the pension, or their survivors, were truly entitled to receive the money. Revolutionary War and Civil War pension records are available from the National Archives.

  - Free land was also often a reward for military service. Land was a reward from the Revolutionary period through about 1855. Data on this is also available from the National Archives.

  - Individual states often awarded "war bonuses" to veterans of wars that ranged from the Mexican Border conflict through the Persian Gulf War. Veterans had to apply for the bonus. It was not automatically distributed. Records of such may have been kept by individual state. Check with that local State Archive. Also check with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

- **Taxes**

  - Property taxes were the most popular form of taxation. This is done at the County level. Taxes were collected annually so you can discover a trail in between census data that can locate your ancestor in between census data.

  - Consider Personal Property taxes.

- o Poll taxes.

- o Special assessments

- **Funeral Home Records**

  - o Someone had to pay the bill! You may discover kinship connections and other connections from this type of paper trail.

  - o You may discover description of the funeral clothes, casket, religious and fraternal association, burial location, church service information.

- **Railroad Records**

  - o Railroads were our biggest employers 100 plus years ago. An ancestor may have worked for the railroad long enough to have been able to retire. Check with the Railroad Retirement Board at www.rrb.gov. Records began being kept in 1937. You can obtain these for a $27 fee.

It is amazing how records associated with "money" can appear to be very prolific as it pertains to the lives of our ancestors. Either they received money, paid some money or received something for free that later turned into money. All of these events often left a paper trail that is awaiting your discovery. Don't forget to pursue these categories of records in your research. It did not depend on how wealthy your ancestor was to leave these trails. All of our ancestors were involved in these "money" related paper trails.

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