HANDOUTS TABLE OF CONTENTS
September 13, 2011

8/29/2011

September 13, 2011 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our September 13, 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.

The source for the vast majority of what is in the Handouts is the monthly Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Newsletter. From within this larger document I extract information on upcoming genealogy programs local to our area, important items from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Blog, as well as I summarize some key periodical articles of interest that I think are important to be aware of. The Handouts simply provide me with the opportunity to focus in on what I consider are important genealogical bits of information important to the researcher as well as to share my own personal thoughts on why it is of note.

You will also see a small redesign of the PDF Handout package. You will now see a Table of Contents on Page 1 listing what the following "handouts" are by topic. Within the Table of contents you can quickly access the handouts by using the hyperlinks and bookmarks that will get you quickly to your handout of interest. You will no longer have to scroll through the entire package of handouts to get to the one you want.

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"!

+ +
+ +

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!

+ +
+ +

Handout #2 – NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COUNCIL OF GENEALOGISTS ON OCTOBER 1, 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, October 1, 2011. The program for the morning is titled **"World War II And Women Too"**. The speaker for the evening will be Kathryn Barrett.

Kathryn Barrett, is a genealogy researcher, teacher and lecturer at the local, regional and national level using her 35 years of genealogy experience. Kathryn has been a volunteer at the National Archives & Records Administration (NARA) – Great Lakes Regional Center for more than 15 years. Kathryn is a professional member of the National Genealogical Society (NGS), the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), and the Wisconsin State Historical Society. The recipients of Kathryn's presentations include various genealogical societies, libraries, conferences, and other special interest groups. Kathryn has recently organized a local homeowner association genealogical group and makes monthly presentations on a wide variety of genealogical topics.

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

+ +
+ +

Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT SOCIETY PROGRAM ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

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

+ +

Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2011

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, September 17, 2011 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"The Musical "Chicago" And All That Genealogical Jazz"**. The speaker for the program will be Mike Karsen.

The Broadway musical and Hollywood movie CHICAGO was based on the stories of two real-life women by the name of Belva and Beulah. Just as in the show and movie these women killed their lovers. By collecting standard genealogical documents Mike Karsen piece together their lives as well as put their tales into context relating to Chicago history. Join us for this fascinating look into actual Chicago historical events.

Mike Karsen is a member of the National Genealogical Society (NGS) and the Genealogical Speakers Guild. He speaks on genealogical topics locally and nationally, teaches classes in genealogy and is on the faculty of the National Institute for Genealogical Studies. Mike has presented at state, national, and international conferences. He is the author of the JewishGen website "Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Chicagoland" and has published articles on genealogy.

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.

+ +

Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON OCTOBER 11, 2011

Our next program is scheduled for Tuesday evening, October 11, 2011. Our guest speaker for the evening is **Maureen Brady**. Maureen will present a program titled **"Family History Research in Illinois and Wisconsin".**

Join genealogist Maureen Brady for an informative program on Illinois and Wisconsin family history research. Learn the similarities and differences of the states' resources and gain an understanding of how "old northwest" history affected genealogy records.

Maureen Brady, a former school librarian and computer educator, has over twenty-five years experience with family history research and is now a professional genealogist. She has traced her own Scottish roots back to the end of the 17th century and beyond, and has also pursued Chicago area, the trans-Allegheny U.S., Irish and Swedish research. She is the co-director and trainer for the Crystal Lake (IL) Family History Center. She is a life member of the Aberdeen and North East Scotland Family History Society, the Chicago Genealogical Society and the Ohio Genealogy Society. She is also active in the British Interest Group of Wisconsin & Illinois, the Illinois St. Andrew Society's Scottish Genealogical Group, the National Genealogical Society, the Lake County (Illinois) Genealogical Society and the Clan Donnachaidh Society, for which she serves as one of the U.S. clan genealogists. 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.

+ +
+ +

Handout #6 – GENEALOGY IS NOT JUST FOR THE RETIRED ANYMORE

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

D. Joshua Taylor is a nationally recognized genealogical author, lecturer, researcher, and is also the former director of education and programs at the New England Historic Genealogical Society. He recently spoke at the Conference on Family History and Genealogy at Brigham Young University and talked about the future of genealogy, saying, "it will no longer be viewed as an 'old' activity for the retired. It will be undefined by age, gender and nationality. We're in prime time now."

Taylor made several predictions for the near future. Of course, most all of us will agree with his predictions of more information will be simple to download and interactive, there will be more online websites for digital scrapbooks and family histories, and everything will be digital. However, he also predicted:
Genealogy will be more about people than facts. He encouraged genealogists to think beyond the pedigree chart and get into the stories about people.

Communities will share data. Genealogists, historians, librarians, archivists and medical professionals will share information.

There will be a new generation of genealogists that will take new tactics.

…and a number of other predictions.

You can read more about D. Joshua Taylor's recent talk in an article by Laurie Snow Turner in the Deseret News at

http://goo.gl/5JkwO

Posted by Dick Eastman on August 15, 2011 in Current Affairs | Permalink

___

Comments by Tony Kierna

It does seem like there is a noticeable overall "speed of light" development occurring in the world of genealogy research. This sure is not the genealogy of your grandmother, your mother or even yourself as recently as 5 years ago. Things have changed so dramatically and so fast that it is literally impossible to keep up with the evolution of new tools that are being created to make research more simple and direct.

Just think that before Census images existed on Ancestry.com most researchers as recently as 5 to 10 years ago would have needed to pore over census microfilms that would have been ordered through me at the library. The first film, a Soundex film hopefully, would have taken about 3 weeks to receive. The researcher would have been able to use that film for about 5 weeks and garner some other information from the Soundex film to give me in order to order a 2nd Census film, the images of the full ledger. That would have taken again about 3 weeks to receive and the researcher would have been able to scroll through the film for about 5 weeks.

Thank goodness this is no longer the way Census research needs to be done today! What would have taken up to 16 weeks of poring over microfilm data now can be done in the blink of an eye with online databases that are indexed and linked to the image on which your ancestor can be found.

Could it be that this speed of researching is more appealing to a greater amount of people? Even if you are retired would you rather spend 16 weeks getting and viewing microfilms that you have to leave the house to do? Or would you rather find Grandpa Johann in a millisecond right in front of you on your computer screen?

Another sign of the times is that when you see prime time TV programming from around the world that is now including genealogy shows as entertainment, you know you have hit your genealogy stride if the subject is becoming that popular. Shows like "Who Do You Think You Are?" are international hits attracting more and more researchers lured by finding lots of ancestral material fast and without leaving home. And these hits are breeding more and more spinoffs incorporating different genealogical twists into the spin-off.

D. Joshua Taylor emphasizes that there will be more of an emphasis on providing the stories of our ancestors and not just the boring vital record facts. Maybe that will be easier in the future because we can literally videotape our entire lives and upload to YouTube or write a million things on FaceBook for ourselves and our friends or Tweet to our hearts content. In other words, so much more about us will be available for current and future researchers from so many other non-traditional sources that it would be hard to overlook all of the additional "story" material we will be able to discover. Unfortunately, today's new media outlets won't necessarily make it any easier for us to find out the stories about great-grandfather Stanislaus! (Unless of course you make connections with a fellow researcher on a message board who happens to have a diary written by great-grandpa Stanislaus that you did not even know existed nor knew the cousin existed!!!)

D. Joshua Taylor at the link above expounds more on what future trends he sees. One new trend just exploding right now is the "Cloud" concept where everything will be stored and accessed making all of the stuff on your own hard drive a little less valuable! Your data, your software, your pictures, videos will be on the cloud to allow you to work with others interested on the same cloud no matter where they live. Watch this one explode!

D. Joshua Taylor seems to think younger people will get more interested in this pursuit because they can devote 15 minutes a day and do not need to be retired to pursue what was at one time a more labor intensive effort. Also I think the span of attention is so short today for so many people that they would be very happy devoting 15 minutes per day instead of 10 hours of hard care research!

Take a look at the link included above in the story from Dick Eastman to read fully all of D. Joshua Taylor's "crystal ball gaze" into the future. But read it fast, because we may have already gone past the "cloud" before you ever even knew there was a cloud! That is how fast things are changing.

+ +
+ +

Handout #7 – SCAN AND DIGITIZE YOUR BOOKS FOR $1 PER 100 PAGES; SCAN YOUR OTHER PAPERS AND MATERIALS ALSO

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated August 13, 2011.

Newsletter reader "Stony" Stonebraker wrote to tell of a new scanning service that is available. I read about the new service and became enthused. I write about a lot of services and products in this newsletter, but this is one I think I will use frequently!

I have been scanning genealogy books in preparation for "downsizing" someday. As I move closer to retirement, I realize that I will someday move to smaller living quarters without room for all the books and magazines I have accumulated. I won't have room for the required bookshelves. The answer seems obvious: digitize them! Thousands of books can be stored in a very small computer or in a tablet computer or even a flash drive.

The problem is that my progress to date has been slow. Scanning a book is a tedious process, and I haven't completed the scanning of very many books. Now a new online service promises to do the job for me at a modest price: one dollar per 100-page book. The same service will also scan documents, photographs, business cards, and even the old greeting cards from relatives I have been saving all these years.

1DollarScan is the U.S. division of a company called Bookscan that has been in business for a few years and now does several million dollars of business per year in Japan.

Anyone can use 1DollarScan by filling out an online order form and then shipping the books or other materials to 1DollarScan's offices in San Jose, California. The company scans them and converts them into PDF files and also performs OCR (optical character recognition) to create a text layer behind the images to make the text searchable and selectable. The PDF files and text files can be sent to the customer by download or on DVD disks. The PDF files can be read on:

- Any Windows, Macintosh, or Linux computer
- Apple iPad, iPad2, iPhone3G, iPhone3GS, iPhone4, iPod touch
- HTC Desire, HTC DesireHD, Xperia
- GALAXY S, GALAXY Tab
- Amazon Kindle3 (coming soon)
- SONY Reader PRS-650 (coming soon)
- Barnes & Noble Nook (coming soon)
- All Android phones, All Android Tabs
- And probably all future computers and ebook readers as well

PDF is a standard that probably will be around for many years. When a better format becomes widely available, conversion programs undoubtedly will be available to easily convert the PDF files to whatever format becomes popular in the future.

After the materials are scanned and the electronic images are returned to the customer, the original paper documents may either be returned (the customer pays the shipping charges) or sent to a recycling service to be shredded and reborn as recycled paper. Obviously, none of us will be sending family heirloom photos to be recycled! However, this is a great method of recycling all the less-valuable books and magazines I have accumulated over the years. I bet I have 200 pounds of them and I certainly can't keep them all when I "downsize my living space."

Once the materials have been scanned and the electronic files sent, the customer manages all future storage as he or she sees fit. In my case, I will make multiple backups and will make sure the backups are stored in several different locations for safe keeping. I will use the L.O.C.K.S.S. method (Lots Of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe.) Luckily, this is easy to do and the online storage expenses are far cheaper than paying for a larger home to store all the physical books.

Prices for the scanning service seem reasonable:

- Books: $1 for 100 pages (so scanning a 300-page book will cost $3)
- Documents: $1 for 10 pages
- Business cards: $1 for 10 cards
- Photographs: $1 for 10 photos
- Greeting cards: $1 per card

1DollarScan promises that future services will include saving all scanned materials directly to a shared Dropbox folder with no CD or DVD disks required. 1DollarScan will scan the books, perform the OCR text conversion, and the customer will receive electronic copies within minutes.

The company is also promising a future service of shipments directly from Amazon.com. You will be able to buy a book on Amazon.com and specify it be shipped directly to 1DollarScan. The company will then scan the book, send the electronic version to you, and dispose of the paper copy as you specify.

I'd suggest this is a great service for genealogists and for many others as well. I won't use it for scanning everything I plan to digitize, but I do hope to send most of the "tedious" scanning to 1DollarScan. I still plan to scan my fragile materials and valuable items myself.

You can learn more about 1DollarScan's services at http://1dollarscan.com.

My thanks to newsletter reader "Stony" Stonebraker for telling me about 1DollarScan.

Comments by Tony Kierna

I thought the story above from Dick Eastman was fascinating and somewhat alluring. After all, most book material today is migrating to electronic format. How much

longer printed, hand-held books will be made is anybody's guess. Electronic reading material is not going to be put back in the genie's bottle! It is here to stay.

How much print material do we have in our own home that has been accumulated over our lifetime? George Carlin would have described this material as his popular "Stuff" routine! As we age it seems like one of the transitions we often face is to "downsize". I guess we could look at this move as possibly being voluntary or maybe even involuntary. Where are you going to put your "stuff" in a new residence that may give you 50% to 90% less storage than your previous home had?

This company sounds like they have it right. Send us your material and we will scan it for you and return to you a PDF of all of that material. The price sure seems to be right. A 300 page book that you want can be done for $3. I wonder how they can do the scanning for so inexpensive of a cost? Do they take the binding off allowing for automated feeding of the pages in a duplex mode? It must work for them and you do not have to scan the material yourself which can be timely even for your own time. Of course the downfall of this process will be your shipping costs to them and the shipping costs back to you if you want to receive the book back itself. Books can be heavy and shipping is not that inexpensive. Of course, this company can dispose of that old book for you since you will now have the book on PDF.

One of the great features the company also performs as part of the conversion is that it will also Optical Character Read (OCR) all of the text contained in the material and making it word searchable on your electronic PDF file. That is a great tool to have as part of the returned file. You can search for keywords or surnames or whatever tickles your fancy on your new electronic files. But remember, this works for printed text data.

Inventory your material. What do you really want to keep? Dispose of that you no longer need now. For what you want to save, consider using this company to reduce the 12 feet of shelf material to a few Gigs on your flashdrive! You can now share your electronic media now that you could not have done so before.

+ +
+ +

8/29/2011

Handout #8 – FAMILY TREE MAKER REVIEW FOR MAC USERS

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at <u>www.eogn.com</u> dated July 29, 2011.

PC Advisor (a British publication) has a review of Family Tree Maker for Mac, written by Simon Jary. He compares the Macintosh program with several other genealogy programs for the Mac, then offers a comparison to the Windows version. <mark>He says generally positive things about the program, although he is obviously not happy with the fact that the Mac version is about a year behind in available features when compared to the Windows version.</mark>

<mark>Jary writes, "The free six-month Premium subscription to Ancestry is an excellent incentive if you want to give yourself a longer trial than the usual 14-day demo, and is worth more than the cost of the program itself."</mark>

The prices mentioned are accurate for U.K. users but anyone in other countries will want to check local pricing. Everything else in the review seems to apply to the program worldwide. You can read the full review of Family Tree Maker for Mac 2011 in *PC Advisor* at

http://www.macworld.co.uk/macsoftware/reviews/index.cfm?reviewid=3293971

Comments by Tony Kierna

<mark>*Please note that the link above was changed by me because the original Dick Eastman link did not connect me to the article. So I did some Google searching and found the review in the UK version of Macworld rather than in PC Advisor as Dick Eastman's article notes.*</mark> *Pardon the change I made but I did want you to get to a "Live" link.*

The Macintosh is a growing computing platform after so many years being at the bottom and literally being in jeopardy of going out of business. <mark>*By no means are they the dominant computing force in terms of overall market share, but I believe they have gone from about 5% to10% of market share.*</mark>

Family Tree Maker also saw an improving business opportunity and decided to develop a Mac version of Family Tree Maker. Family Tree Maker has a very large

market position in the world of lineage programs so I think they saw a great opportunity to take advantage of a growing number of Macintosh users. Although I really wonder if they are adding to their user base or are just keeping the same customer who was a former Windows Family Tree Maker user that just switched over to become a Mac Family Tree Maker user??

The article above does note that a subscription to the Premium version of Family Tree for the Mac presents a great opportunity for the purchaser to obtain a free 6 month subscription to Ancestry.com with the purchase of a high-end Family Tree Maker package. You can almost always obtain a free trial subscription to Ancestry.com just by visiting them. But it is only for two weeks at best and they know who you are so you cannot keep signing up for continuing "freebies".

So if you are going to get a lineage program anyhow then it might make sense to get the top of the line version of Family Tree Maker that includes the 6 month free subscription to Ancestry.com. That alone might be worth up to $150 in value. Plus, 6 months is a nice long time to really dig into the material at Ancestry.com.

The review is very comprehensive but you will need to ignore the British Pound prices that appear throughout. Use the review for the software information and comparison and then head to the Family Tree Maker website at www.familytreemaker.com to get the scoop on the prices.

I have personally been a Reunion user, another Mac software program that existed before this new version for Mac was created. However, I have considered moving into Family Tree Maker for Mac simply because it has been 4 years since the Reunion software developer has significantly updated the program. At least with Family Tree Maker you can almost be assured of annual versions of the program to consider purchasing if you feel the changes are worthwhile for your own use. But when a developer has not really created a new product in 4 years, you have to wonder how far behind the times the product becomes!

If you are a Mac user and are looking for lineage software, Family Tree Maker may be your answer. Read the extensive review and give it a try. You will not feel so alone as a Mac user today as you may have 5 years ago!

+ +
+ +

Handout #9 – MOBILE GENEALOGY: FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH ON YOUR PHONE, TABLET AND MORE!

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the August/September 2011, Volume 6, Number 3 issue of Internet Genealogy.

* *

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled "Mobile Genealogy: Family History Research on Your Phone, Tablet and More!" by Tony Bandy. We as researchers all realize how technology moves at the speed of light. The author took some time to present to us where mobile technology is at this point in time and what it can do for our family research.

The author divides descriptions of this fast-moving technology to :

- Hardware
- Software
- Apps
- Going to the Web
- Online Overviews

In the area of hardware the reader should know that the following technology is available to use:

- Smartphones
- Tablets
- E-Readers

Smartphones are your mobile phones on steroids. They are much more than just a mobile phone. You can make and receive calls. You have an onboard camera. You have access to the web. You can do wonders with your genealogy using a smartphone. One obvious drawback is screen size. It is small, especially for aging eyes. Another drawback may be monthly cost. You are usually required to sign up with a provider for multiple users in order to get the phone itself at a reduced cost. The monthly cost for the smartphone also includes a data plan that allows you to access the web. You could easily spend $80 per month for bare minimum minutes of talk plus the data plan.

Here are some manufacturer links to their available smart phone products:

- Apple's iPhone @ www.apple.com/iphone
- Google's Android based phones @ www.google.com/phone
- Windows 7 mobile phones @ www.microsoft.com/windowsphone/en-us/default.aspx
- Blackberry @ http://us.blackberry.com

Tablets are the growing rage now. They are much smaller than laptops, weigh less, are less complicated to use but have somewhat limited power plus input connectors. They are often in the size for screen real estate from 7 to 9 inches, much larger than

They can certainly act like a phone for calling but by using mother providers like Skype.

- Blackberry Playbook @ http://us.blackberry.com/playbook-tablet
- HTC Flyer (Android-based tablet) @ http://www.htc.com/us/products/tablets/flyer-bestbuy?extcid=Flyer-GoogleSEM&jt=1&jp=&jadid=6661723810&js=1&jk=HTC%20flyer&jsid=20718&jkId=gc:a8a8ae4cc3000c77001300f9294b819f6:t1_e_:k_HTC%20flyer:pl_&&gclid=CPX3-fa_0aoCFQEKKgoduR5HYg
- Apple's iPad @ www.apple.com/ipad
- HP WebOs tablet @ http://h41112.www4.hp.com/promo/webos/us/en/tablets/touchpad.html
- Walt Mossberg's Review of the Motorola Xoom @ http://media.marketwatch.com/video/20110223/022311mossbergxoom/022311mossbergxoom_1500k.mp4

The screens are in the same size as for tablets. These obviously don't allow you to be as versatile as the Tablets because they are more limited in scope as to what they do.

- Amazon Kindle @ www.amazon.com/Kindle-Wireless-Reader-WifiGraphite/dp/B002Y27P3M
- Barnes and Noble Nook @ www.barnesandnoble.com/nook/index.asp
- Kobo @ www.kobobooks.com/touch

Apps are what make the world go round. Often Apps are developed to be able to function on all Operating Systems, but not always. So you have to be aware of what Operating System you will get with your purchase of a particular device. Software is developed to function on the Apple OS Operating System, the Android System from Google, or the Windows 7 Operating System from Microsoft.

- Ancestry App that allows you to access and work with any of your uploaded family trees at Ancestry.com. This assumes you have a personal subscription with Ancestry and have uploaded material to the site. You can see more about this App at http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ancestry/id349554263?mt=8

- Billion Graves App is similar to using FindAGrave. This App allows you to upload and share your cemetery information for your ancestors. Visit Billion Graves at http://billiongraves.com.
- Internet Genealogy magazine App that allows you to access your already subscribed magazines to this great journal. If you do not subscribe to this journal you can also purchase individual copies for $1.99. Visit Moorshead Magazines to find out more about this App at www.moorshead.com.

For the Android Operating System for mobile devices you will find the following Apps:

- GedStar Pro Genealogy Viewer @ http://ghcssoftware.com
- FindAGrave (Beta) @ http://sites.google.com/site/findgrave/
- My Heritage @ https://market.android.com/details?id=net.piod.myHeritage

If you are looking for some general information about Mobile Genealogy and why you do not want to be left behind in this developing aspect of genealogy, then take a look at some of the following online sites to give you more information:

- From About.com "iPad Apps for Genealogy @ http://genealogy.about.com/od/family_tree_software/tp/Ipad-Apps-For-Genealogy.htm
- From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter "Windows Phone 7 for Genealogists" @ http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2010/10/windows-phone-7-for-genealogists.html
- Engadget (Hardware Reviews for Smartphones and Tablets) @ www.engadget.com/reviews/
- FamilySearch Tech Tips "Mobile Devices" @ www.familysearch.org/techtips/category/how-tos-and-tips/using-mobile-devices-for-genealogy
- FamilySearch Tech Tips "Mobile Genealogy on Android Made Easy" @ www.familysearch.org/techtips/2011/04/mobile-genealogy-on-android-made-easy.html
- Find My Ancestor Blog "Mobile Monday" @ www.blog.findmyancestor.com/category/mobile-monday/
- MobileGenealogy.com "Windows Phone 7 and Genealogy" @ www.mobilegenealogy.com/2010/10/11/windows-phone-7-and-genealogy-apps/
- Review: Mobile Family Tree @ www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~utcfhc/Mobile_Tree.pdf

If you currently do not have a smartphone or a tablet or an e-reader, you may want to spend some time reading the entirety of this article. There is plenty to read from beginning tom end in this article that can certainly enlighten you about Mobile Genealogy. It is another wave of technology that is here to stay. This is an article that is well-worth making a personal copy and keep for reference as you plow your way through jumping on the Mobile Genealogy bandwagon.

Right now my own head is even spinning about this exploding topic!!

+ +
+ +

Handout #10 – WHAT'S IN YOUR GOOGLE TOOLBOX?

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the August/September 2011, Volume 6, Number 3 issue of Internet Genealogy.

* *

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled "What's in Your Google Toolbox?" by Diane L. Richard. Diane is actually reviewing a newly published book by Lisa Louise Cook titled "The Genealogist's Google Toolbox".

Google is a genealogist's best friend. We all use it and some of us may use it exclusively. Just like with lineage software products, the product itself is laden with great capabilities that most of us do not take the time to learn about. We use if for its basic functionality and in essence probably use about 10% of the power of the product. Because we often get great results by just using 10% of the product, we are often happy with what we get. But Google has so much more to offer than just the basics. I think genealogists should feel very lucky that a book now exists to give us a better overview of a great deal of the Google Tools that exist that we should consider incorporating into our own research.

Take a look at what is all available from Google from looking at their "products" portion of their web site you can access at:

http://www.google.com/intl/en/about/products/index.html

For many of us we would just like to take advantage of the resources within Google anonymously. Unfortunately, in order to take advantage of all of what Google offers you will need to register yourself with Google. The reviewer even suggests that many of us have multiple e-mail accounts so why not considering registering yourself with Google to get a Gmail account. Once you register for this, you in essence have free roaming to all of the other tools.

The reviewer of the book notes the following items you can find in the Google Toolbox:

- **Google Alerts** – you can activate a process within Google to notify you if in Google's massive searching of internet material it comes across a new item that you may previously not have encountered. You don't have to guess whether you have incorporated a new item into your own searches. Tell Google what you want to keep up on and it will inform you of any new discoveries.

- **iGoogle** – within Google you can create your own personal Google page. Yahoo offers similar services. On your own iGoogle page you can incorporate all of the nice things offered by Google. Things such as News, Gmail, Date/Time/Weather, Calendar and more. You can add "gadgets" to your iGoogle page and the reviewer indicates that

there are at least 60 gadgets that are genealogically oriented in nature.

- **Google Books and Google News** – <mark>I have previously mentioned Google Books as being a great source of accessing millions of books online, especially those that are out of copyright and are free for you to download.</mark> These out of copyright books may be important sources of genealogically material, especially Family Tree books that may have been written and published prior to 1923. With Google News you can always keep in touch with current news as well as searching for news about your ancestors.

- **Google Translate** – <mark>what better place than to use this feature to help us with translations of our ancestors' documents from non-English speaking countries.</mark> Do you need to write a letter to a foreign archive? Write it in English and let Google Translate convert it for you to that foreign language.

- **YouTube** – Google owns YouTube. There are over 2 Billion views of YouTube material per day. There are many genealogical videos posted on YouTube for your pleasure, enjoyment and to expand your research knowledge.

- **Google Earth** – the reviewer indicates the book devotes many chapters to this great tool. Google Earth may be somewhat complex, but the reviewer indicates that the multiple chapters in the book do a good job of getting you through the process of fully tapping into Google Earth. What better place to connect to the ancestral areas where our ancestors lived. You may very well see the actual home area of an ancestor using this tool. For those researchers not wanting to actually make a trip, consider this a great alternative.

<mark>The reviewer is very excited in her description of all that can be found in this great book. What a nice way to unlock more of the power of Google by taking a tour through this great book. The more you know about Google and its power, the better your own research can become.</mark>

<mark>I plan on ordering a copy of this book for our library as a circulating item.</mark>

For an even more in-depth review of the book, you will definitely want to read the entirety of the article.

+ +
+ +