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**PLEASE NOTE**

The statements in this newsletter cited as quotes from other newsletters, quarterlies, etc., are quotations and not necessarily fact. I try not to reproduce statements that have been denied as being true and also those statements that are "old news" and have been quoted over a few years.

I would like to remind you that a few extra "paper" copies of all newsletters are filed at the Information Desk on the 2nd floor along with the "handouts" summary sheet. Please remember that you can take any of the extra paper copies in the folder. The Newsletter as well as all "handout" summaries for a particular meeting will be contained in a folder specifically for that meeting date e.g. Newsletter as well as "handout" summary for meeting on 1/12/10 are contained in a separate folder. Each meeting date will have its own folder. If you do not find a copy in the manila "extra" folder, you will have to copy from the permanent file binder. If the staff has trouble finding the folders, please let me know.

More importantly, electronic PDF copies of the Newsletter and the "handouts" summary for our monthly program can be obtained electronically as PDF files from our Library's Genealogy Blog called "Tony's Genealogy Blog at the Schaumburg Township District Library". This is a WordPress blog that you can reach directly at:

<http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Look on the right side of the blog for links within the "Newsletter" category and the "Program Handouts" category. You can read the material online, download as a PDF file to your computer or print it from the blog.

If anyone needs to contact me via e-mail, you may reach me at the Schaumburg Township District Library at:

**akierna@stdl.org**

Or if you need to reach me the old fashioned way by phone, please contact me through the **Schaumburg Township District Library at 847-923-3390. I now can also be reached by direct FAX at the Schaumburg Township District Library. The FAX number in Extension Services is 847-923-3389.**

I am at the library each Monday, Tuesday (except on program dates) and Wednesday morning from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM should you need to meet me to obtain assistance in your research plan. Please let me know in advance if you plan on dropping in on these days so we can schedule a convenient time slot within those hours.

Tony Kierna - Genealogy Coordinator/Schaumburg Township District Library

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**JANUARY 10, 2012 GENEALOGY PROGRAM TOPIC**

Our topic for our next program on January 10, 2012 will be **“Social Networking for Genealogy: Family Trees, FaceBook, Blogs and More”**. Our speaker for the evening will be Caron Primas Brennan.

Social Media is exploding all around us. Using genealogy networks is no exception. Are you on FaceBook yet? What about Google Plus? Are you blogging on WordPress or BlogSpot? It is hard enough at times to do basic genealogical research to uncover our ancestors with records, but now we have to be aware and should be participating in all of the exploding Social Media presence that now surrounds us.

Do you feel like you are falling farther and farther behind the curve? Are we losing out on golden opportunities to advance our research by not yet participating on all of these Social Networking outlets? Probably so.

Caron is going to fill the gap on this exploding aspect of genealogy networking so we can better understand what all the hoopla is about for Social Networking.

Caron loves history, biography, puzzles and a good mystery, which makes her perfectly suited to genealogy research! She has been researching her family history since a 6<sup>th</sup> grade school project got her interested. She has been using the computer and internet since before it was “cool”. She uses The Master Genealogist as her primary software and also uses Family Tree Maker and Ancestry to share with others in her family. Caron’s only vice is genealogy research so she has subscriptions to many resources including Ancestry.com, Genealogybank.com, NEGHS, Footnote, and Godfrey Memorial Library. She belongs to several local genealogy groups and is the Webmaster and Newsletter Publisher for CAGGNI ([www.caggni.org](http://www.caggni.org)).

You may visit the library’s web page at:

[www.SchaumburgLibrary.org](http://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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## **WELCOME TO ALL NEWCOMERS**

Glad you could join us as you embark on a rather adventurous journey into the unknown and far-reaching past! Please see me so I can get to know you and the details of the “journey” you plan to take. Make sure you receive from me a special “newcomer” package of materials that will help you take your first big steps.

I would greatly appreciate your taking the time to fill out and return to me a simple questionnaire that I use to better understand areas of research into which you may delve as well as your having access or not to a home personal computer.

Please feel free to become acquainted with the Genealogy Collection at Schaumburg Township District Library. Our book material is generally located in the 929.1XXXX to 929.3XXXX sections of both the Circulating Collection as well as the Reference Collection. The library also has a Video, Audio and Microform Collection of Genealogy material located in the AV-Department. The materials in AV are also identified in the same Dewey number range as the printed material. These are two great browsing areas for you to review introductory material.

For book material I would like to recommend as a starter a book titled Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide to Genealogy by Emily Anne Croom (929.1 CRO). A companion book that would follow Unpuzzling Your Past is The Genealogist's Companion & Sourcebook also by Emily Anne Croom (929.1 CRO). These two books present a good place to begin familiarizing yourself with the field of Genealogy. Feel free to check these out.

If you have access to the Internet, you may want to check out a Getting Started web page that appears at the National Genealogical Society web site. The address is:

[http://www.ngsgenealogy.org//cs/getting\\_started](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org//cs/getting_started)

Our group is a great group of friendly people who are willing to help each other in their quest to discover their ancestors. Don't be shy to mingle!! You may be sitting next to a long, lost relative!?

Welcome to the group!

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## WHO WE ARE AND WHERE WE ARE LOOKING - FOLLOW-UP

Here is an update on our participant information that I am tracking. My database to date includes information on 155 participants in the group. I have received updates from many of you since our last meeting. You truly are a very sharing group in your willingness to share your personal information with others in the group concerning your research efforts.

The entire group is searching for a total of 1,157 surnames among all of the individuals.

Remember, that I will bring to the meeting a current group report that I would appreciate you reviewing and marking any additions, deletions or changes for your particular information that you would like me to make onto the report itself. I will leave one updated report by the genealogical material by the Information Desk on the 2nd floor for you to reference in-between meetings. I will make additions/deletions to the participants that will be reflected in the listing of participants contained in the red binder that will be on the shelves at the combined Information/Magazine desk.

If you are in the library and need to review please ask someone at the Information/Magazine Desk on the 2nd floor for the material. Also check for this binder at my desk in the Extension Services Office if you do not find it at the Information Desk.

Any feedback from you is welcome concerning the report and the material included in it. I do occasionally make typos or I possibly misread what you provided.

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## SHORT TAKES / POTPOURRI

*The following articles are from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter October 21, 2011, October 24, 2011, October 25, 2011, October 27, 2011, October 27, 2011, November 16, 2011 and are copyright 2011 by Richard W. Eastman. They are re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.*

<b>DeKalb County, Illinois, to Offer Online Searches of Vital Records (October 21, 2011)</b>
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DeKalb County is set to launch a genealogy website by early to mid-November that will allow anyone to search and download birth, marriage and death records that date back to the county's inception in 1837. The search is free, but a \$10 fee – the same price it costs to pick up documents at the clerk's office – will be charged to print or save a copy of an original document.

County Clerk John Acardo said the website should increase the revenue generated from the genealogical records fee by 40 percent because of the global reach. He said the county already receives requests from people around the world, and the ease and accessibility the website will deliver along with a partnership with ancestry.com should increase the demand.

You can read more in an article by Jeff Engelhardt in the Daily Chronicle at

<http://goo.gl/RAqtu>

**Posted by Dick Eastman on October 21, 2011 in [Online Sites](#) | [Permalink](#)**

<b>Use Quotation Marks Instead of + to Require a Search Term in Your Google Results (October 24, 2011)</b>
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This article is for anyone who has listened to one of my talks on *Google for Genealogists*:

Last week Google changed the way one of their most useful search operators works, one that I have always mentioned in my talks: The + (plus) operator. What's that mean for you? Next time you want to make sure any single word or phrase appears in your search

results, wrap it in quotation marks.

To explicitly specify that you want the results to include a word, you used to be able to add the + (plus) operator to the front of a term, such as:

+Ohio Mansfield

The above search states that the word "Ohio" must be on every search result and would ignore pages that don't have that word, such as a page that says, "Mansfield, Vermont."

Now, rather than adding the + operator, you need to wrap the word or words in quotation marks, such as:

"Ohio" Mansfield

**Posted by Dick Eastman on October 24, 2011 in [Online Sites](#) | [Permalink](#)**

### **Tennessee State Library and Archives Partners with Ancestry.com (October 25, 2011)**

Millions of Tennessee historical records will be readily available, throughout the country, as a result of the State Library and Archives' new partnership agreement with Ancestry.com. The State Library and Archives is sharing Tennessee death records from 1908 through 1959. This database includes 1.2 million digital images and indexes 3.4 million names that appear in those records.

The records are available free to Tennesseans by visiting the Tennessee Electronic Library main web page at <http://tntel.tnsos.org/>, then clicking on the "genealogy" tab and then the "Tennessee Death Records" tab.

You can read more in an article by Sarah Wilson, on the WRCB-TV web site at

<http://goo.gl/W0Yvb>

**Posted by Dick Eastman on October 25, 2011 in [Online Sites](#) | [Permalink](#)**

### **NARA e-Records Archive is Missing Vital Search Capability (October 27, 2011)**

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration spent \$430 million to create an Electronic Records Archive of millions of documents. NARA Inspector General Paul Brachfeld now says that the system is inadequate and disappointing.

Under the currently deployed system, users can search only by metadata. Such information typically includes tags for information, such as name of the original publication, date of publication, agency that originated the document, and a small number of keywords. Users who hope to locate a document by a word or phrase in a document that isn't part of the metadata will be unable to do so.

Lack of text searchability "is an important weakness, and I am not sure it can be corrected," Brachfeld said.

You can read more in an article by Alice Lipowicz in the *Government Computer News* web site at <http://goo.gl/ztkUA>

Admittedly, these flaws will not have much impact on genealogists. The documents in the database are mostly modern documents originally created in electronic formats, not older documents of historical interest that were created years ago on paper.

Posted by Dick Eastman on October 27, 2011 in [Current Affairs](#) | [Permalink](#)

### Skewing - A Technique for Signature Identification (October 27, 2011)



How do you read a signature that is heavily slanted with the letters seemingly run together? Genealogists have that problem when trying to identify signatures but numismatists (coin and money collectors) also have the same problem when trying to identify signatures on banknotes and checks.

The answer?

Open a digital image of the signature in a photoediting program and then skew it (slant it) until the signature appears to be more vertical. A great example can be found in *The E-Sylum*, an electronic publication of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, at

[http://www.coinbooks.org/esylum\\_v14n43a06.html](http://www.coinbooks.org/esylum_v14n43a06.html).

Neat trick! My thanks to Shirley Wilcox for telling me about the article.

Posted by Dick Eastman on October 27, 2011 in [Genealogy Basics](#) | [Permalink](#)

### Who Do You Think You Are? Returns to U.S. Television (November 16, 2011)

NBC has announced the new midseason schedule. Of interest to genealogists, the new season of *Who Do You Think You Are?* will be broadcast on Fridays from 8 pm to 9 pm, beginning February 3, 2012.

Check your local listings for times and stations in your area.

Posted by Dick Eastman on November 16, 2011 in [Video & Television](#) | [Permalink](#)

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## LOCAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS/PROGRAMS

*Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists*

**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 3<sup>RD</sup> 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 1<sup>ST</sup> 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.**

**THERE IS NO PROGRAM SCHEDULED BY THIS SOCIETY FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2011.**

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists will take place on Saturday morning, January 7, 2012. The program for the morning is titled "**Organizing and Writing Your Family History**". The speaker for the morning will be Steve Szabados.

Steve Szabados is a retired project manager with a Bachelor of Science degree and a MBA who started researching his ancestors in 2004. He has given numerous presentations to groups in Illinois and Wisconsin and wants to share his passion for Family History . He is a member of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, Illinois State Genealogical Society and also a genealogy volunteer at the Arlington Heights Library. His roots are Polish and Hungarian plus he has also had success researching Slovenian and Bohemian records.

Meetings take place at Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 West Central Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005 at 10:00 AM. There is a round table discussion that takes place at 9:30 AM prior to the main meeting that starts at 10:00 AM. Participants are invited to attend this round table and bring their research questions for discussion.

You may visit the society web page at:

[www.NWSCG.com](http://www.NWSCG.com)

Please note that it has happened once in a while that the society may change a program schedule without actively sharing that fact. Checking their web site may also not give you notice of such a change if they do not change the web site. That is still the first place to check. You may also want to contact someone at the society if a phone number is available to verify that a program is still scheduled as they had advertised. That is always not available either.

We do our best here to try to be sure that information we convey about programs is accurate. However, sometimes we are unable to convey changes unless we are made aware of those changes.

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*DuPage County Genealogical Society*

**Please note that meetings that are scheduled for September 2011 through May 2012. The September 2011 program will occur at the DuPage County Historical Museum located at 102 E. Wesley Street in Wheaton, IL. The October 2011 through May 2012 programs are once again taking place at the Wheaton**



**Public Library in the Lower Level. The address of the library is 225 N. Cross St. in Wheaton, IL. Please note the new times for refreshments and the program. Refreshments are offered at 6:30 PM. The meeting will start at 7 PM and last till no longer than 9 PM when the library closes.**

***THERE IS NO PROGRAM SCHEDULED BY THIS SOCIETY FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2011.***

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, January 18, 2012. The program scheduled for that evening is **“Visualizing Your Genealogical Data: Excel, OneNote, Maps, Blogs”**. The speaker for the program will be Jennifer Holik.

Most genealogists use some version of family tree software to record and organize their data. Does that software always show the data in ways that help answer all the questions, fill in data gaps, and move research forward? Research examples will be shown from Excel and OneNote to visualize data to fill in research gaps, answer questions, and organize your data. Mapping tools will be explored as a resource to visually document families. Finally, blogging will be discussed as an option to answer questions, share data and move your research forward.

Jennifer Holik is a professional genealogical researcher, house historian, lecturer, and author. Jennifer authors several blogs including, Chicago Family History, Genealogy for Kids and Family History Research. Her book *To Soar with Tigers about Flying Tiger*, Robert R. Brouk, was published in early 2011. Her website is [www.generationsbiz.com](http://www.generationsbiz.com).

Jennifer, by the way, was the professional genealogist that actually attended our October 11, 2011. She came to get an idea of how our monthly genealogy programs are done. She was very happy with what she saw and went out of her way to do some blogging about her wonderful experience at our program. Her kind words of her experience were wonderful! Now is your chance to actually see Jennifer in an active role as a speaker presenting her program.

You may visit the society's web page at:

[www.dcg.org](http://www.dcg.org)

The society also has a blog that you can visit to find out about “this and that” related to the society as well as find genealogical tips. You can visit the DuPage County Genealogical Society blog at:

<http://dupagecountygenealogicalsociety.wordpress.com/>

Please note that it has happened once in a while that the society may change a program schedule without actively sharing that fact. Checking their web site may also not give you notice of such a change if they do not change the web site. That is still the first place to check. You may also want to contact someone at the society if a phone number is available to verify that a program is still scheduled as they had advertised. That is always not available either.

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*Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois (CAGGNI)*

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, January 21, 2012 at (To Be Announced) at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is "**Digital Scrapbooking: Presenting Your Family History**". The speaker for the program will be Kate Thommes.

Kate will explain how to preserve and digitize your photos and documents, and put it all together in a beautiful, professional, presentation book your family can enjoy for generations.

You may visit the organization web page at:

[www.CAGGNI.org](http://www.CAGGNI.org)

Please note that it has happened once in a while that the society may change a program schedule without actively sharing that fact. Checking their web site may also not give you notice of such a change if they do not change the web site. That is still the first place to check. You may also want to contact someone at the society if a phone number is available to verify that a program is still scheduled as they had advertised. That is always not available either.

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**INTERNET INFORMATION**

*The following articles are from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter November 17, 2011, and November 21, 2011 and are copyright by Richard W. Eastman 2011. They are re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>*

<b>1940 U.S. Census Hosting Awarded to Archives.com (November 17, 2011)</b>
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The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration long ago announced that the 1940 census records would be hosted online as digital images free of charge, beginning on April 2, 2012. However, until now, NARA did not mention WHERE the images would be found. Since the National Archives and Records Administration does not have enough web servers or personnel to do the hosting on the [www.nara.org](http://www.nara.org) web site, the assumption has

always been that NARA would contract with a commercial firm to provide the hosting.

Fierce competition has existed amongst four different genealogy services for the rights to be the first and the official hosting service. However, the contract for the hosting company was not awarded until this week.

The 1940 census will first be hosted at a new web site owned and managed by Archives.com

Technically, the contract was awarded to Inflection, a Silicon Valley-based technology company in Redwood City, California. However, Inflection is the parent company of Archives.com, a genealogy web site. I would expect the census to appear on the Archives.com site, not on the parent company's site.

The contract was awarded at zero cost. That is, Inflection/Archives.com is not charging the government anything for hosting the images. The agreement is for a one-year contract with options for up to four one-year extensions.

Keep in mind that NARA is releasing all the 1940 census records as free digital images. However, there will be no index on April 2. That is, you will not be able to enter a name and then be immediately taken to the page(s) where that name appears. Instead, you will need to search the online census images in the same manner that genealogists search unindexed records on microfilm: one page at a time.

FamilySearch.org and its partners will also publish the 1940 U.S. Federal Census for free on April 2, 2012, the day the census is released by NARA. However, FamilySearch.org states "and its partners" so we can assume the partnership will be between FamilySearch.org and Archives.com. In addition, FamilySearch.org will also provide digital images to tens of thousands of volunteers to start transcribing the records so they become searchable.

Complete publication of the index will depend on how many volunteers can help. In fact, this is an excellent opportunity for you to get involved with indexing.

The 1940 census included several standard questions, such as: name, age, gender, race, education, and place of birth. But the census also introduced some new questions. One example is that the enumerator was instructed to mark (with a circled x) who in the household responded to the census questions. Other questions included whether the person worked for the CCC, WPA, or NYA the week of March 24-30, 1940, and the income for the 12 months ending December 31, 1939.

As part of the census, 5% of respondents (two names per page) were asked supplemental questions, which included the place of birth of the person's father and mother, the respondent's usual occupation (not just for the week of March 24-30), and questions related to marriage for all women who were or had been married. The enumerators asked women if they had been married more than once, the age at first marriage, and the total number of children to whom they had ever given birth.

You can learn more about the data contained within the 1940 census at

<http://www.rigensoc.org/1940CensusCountdown.pdf>

You can learn more about FamilySearch's plans for indexing at

<https://familysearch.org/1940Census>

Here is the announcement from Archives.com:

Archives.com Parent Company Inflection Awarded Project to Make 1940 Census Records Free to the Public

REDWOOD CITY, Calif., Nov. 17, 2011 -- Archives.com, the website that makes discovering your family history simple and affordable, has joined in partnership with the National Archives of the United States to provide the public with free digital access to the 1940 Federal Population Census beginning on April 2, 2012. In close collaboration with the National Archives, Archives.com will build a website for researchers to browse, view, and download images from the 1940 Census, the most important collection of newly released U.S. genealogy records in a decade.

Archives.com is pleased to contribute to this momentous project, allowing researchers to digitally access the latest release of the U.S. Federal Population Census, the ultimate resource for family historians, at no cost. Census day occurred April 1, 1940 and due to the 72-year privacy restriction these records will be available to the public for the first time in 2012.

CEO Matthew Monahan said, "We are thrilled to have the opportunity to participate in this historic moment and demonstrate our ongoing commitment to the advancement of online genealogy research. Access to 1940 Census records will allow researchers to discover new family members and previously unknown connections to the past. We're happy to have the opportunity to facilitate the discovery of these records, which document over 130 million U.S. residents, more than any previous U.S. Census."

The 1940 Census will be available to the public April 2, 2012 at 9:00 AM (Eastern Daylight Time) on a new website created in collaboration between Archives.com and the National Archives. The collection will consist of 3.8 million images that the National Archives scanned from over four thousand rolls of microfilm. Public access to the images will not require payment or registration, and will be available to any person with internet access. The name and web address of the website will be announced at a later date.

Chief Digital Access Strategist for the National Archives Pamela Wright notes, "The importance of the 1940 Census cannot be underestimated. At the National Archives, we have been preparing for the launch of these records for years. We are working closely with Inflection to ensure researchers will be able to search the 1940 Census when it opens next year." At launch, researchers will be able to search the 1940 Census by address, Enumeration District (ED), and geographic location. Researchers will be able to browse images by ED number directly, or use address or geographic information to locate the appropriate census schedule.

To learn more about Archives.com and the National Archives bringing the 1940 Census online, please visit [www.archives.com/1940census](http://www.archives.com/1940census). The National Archives also has published a number of helpful resources available to researchers on their website, which can help you to prepare to most effectively search the 1940 Census on April 2nd. As the project progresses, updates and additional information will be posted at [www.archives.com/blog](http://www.archives.com/blog). Join the conversation on Twitter using the hashtag #1940Census.

## About Archives.com

Archives.com is the website that makes family history simple and affordable. Archives.com is owned and operated by Inflection a data commerce company headquartered in the heart of Silicon Valley. It has proven its leadership in the family history industry through its commitment to building powerful, easy to use tools, and helping researchers discover new family connections with its growing database of over 1.5 billion records. Archives.com parent company Inflection was chosen by the National Archives to host the 1940 Census. Learn more about the project at [www.archives.com/1940census](http://www.archives.com/1940census).

## About the National Archives

The National Archives and Records Administration is an independent Federal agency that preserves and shares with the public records that trace the story of our nation, government, and the American people. From the Declaration of Independence to accounts of ordinary Americans, the holdings of the National Archives directly touch the lives of millions of people. The National Archives is a public trust upon which our democracy depends, ensuring access to essential evidence that protects the rights of American citizens, documents the actions of the government, and reveals the evolving national experience. Visit [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov).

Posted by Dick Eastman on November 17, 2011 in [Online Sites](#) | [Permalink](#)

**findmypast.ie Announces Free Online Family Tree Builder Software (November 21, 2011)**



More and more genealogy software is becoming available in the cloud. The latest announcement is from the Irish genealogy site, [findmypast.ie](http://findmypast.ie). Instead of entering your genealogy information into a traditional program installed on your computer's hard drive, you may enter the same information into a program that runs on findmypast.ie's web servers.

Cloud-based genealogy programs offer several advantages over traditional genealogy programs, as well as a few disadvantages. The primary advantages are ease of access from anywhere, ease of sharing with family members, increased security, and increased data protection as everything is backed up frequently by professionals managing the data center. Of course, another advantage is the price. In this case, the program is **FREE**. Disadvantages include generally slower performance, although this decreases as Internet connection speeds continue to increase.

The following announcement was written by [findmypast.ie](http://findmypast.ie):  
Launch of Family Tree Builder on findmypast.ie

- First Irish family history website to offer web-based family tree software
- Allows user to fully benefit from access to almost 10 million records

Today, findmypast.ie becomes the first Irish family history website to offer its users family tree builder software, greatly enhancing its offering to Irish family history enthusiasts.

One of the most important elements in researching your family history is the ability to form a visual representation of your years of hard work and research. Findmypast.ie's free online application allows users to easily create a tree from scratch and add some of 10 million records now available on findmypast.ie to their existing research.

When compared to using traditional software findmypast.ie's web-based program presents many advantages such as allowing users to access the latest version of their family tree from any computer and share their family tree with invited members of their family or fellow researchers. Some of the main features of the software include:

- Add, edit, update and delete relations
- Add partners, parents and children
- View your immediate family, ancestors, descendants or whole family tree

This is merely the first step in findmypast.ie's development of a fully integrated family tree program on which users will be able to store photos and historical references, helping to preserve the story of their ancestors. Future features will also include greatly enhanced social functionality, such as the ability to search other users' trees and inviting other users to collaborate on a tree.

Cliona Weldon, General Manager of [findmypast.ie](http://findmypast.ie), comments: "Our family tree building software is equally adept at helping the novice family historian and experienced genealogist alike to store all the names on their family tree in one place. We've made the web based program as easy to use as possible and most importantly its free."

Posted by Dick Eastman on November 21, 2011 in [Software](#) | [Permalink](#)

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## PERIODICAL NEWS

### ***National Genealogical Society Quarterly***

We have received the Volume 99, No. 3, September 2011 issue of [National Genealogical Society Quarterly](#).

Key articles in this issue are:

**"Finding A Man's Past Through His Children: Four Wives of John C. Fawcner of Kentucky and Indian"**

By J. H. Fonkert, CG

**"One Piece of a Family Puzzle: Hugh Gwin ("1702-68") of Gloucester County, Virginia"**

By Anita A. Lustenberger, CG

**"Uncovering the Linkenheim, Baden, Origin of Ludwig Fischer of Cook County, Illinois"**

By Lynne Fischer

**"Greetings from Winchester Gaol: The Plight of Robert Arnold"**

By Allen R. Peterson, CG

**"Washington and Lewis Giboney, Company G, 102<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, United States Colored Troops: Runaway Slaves or Free Men of Color?"**

By Ruth Randall, CG

Also included in this issue are a series of reviews of recently published genealogical material in various media formats. Reviews included in this issue are:

***The Great Heart of the Republic: St. Louis and the Cultural Civil War***

By Adam Arenson

***In the Shade of Oaks: A Story of American Heritage***

By Margaret Louise Harris

***Education and Ontario Family History: A Guide to Resources for Genealogists and Historians***

By Marian Press

***New York State Probate Records: A Genealogist's Guide to Testate and Intestate Records, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.***

By Gordon L. Remington

The articles published in this journal are incredibly detailed and well-documented. They are challenging to read at times because of the extensive documentation. Give some of them a try especially if the topic or the geographical location of the articles falls in line with your own research.

Be sure to also take a look at the reviews I mentioned that are contained in this issue. These are extensive reviews of the published materials, often presented in a hard hitting manner if the reviewer thought that there were major flaws in the material. Again, some of the published material may be relative to your own research, especially if the book is about a family name or a geographic location of your own research. See if you can get a copy of the book if there is a direct link to your own research and see what this author has been able to document that may shed light on your own research.

You can find this recent publication of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of our library on the magazine shelves.

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## **Family Chronicle**

We have received the November/December 2011, Volume 16, Number 2 issue of Family Chronicle.

Key articles in this issue are:

### **"Irish Naming Conventions"**

By Rick Norberg

*Rick Norberg offers some tips and advice on researching the names of your Irish ancestors.*

### **"10 Tips for Reading German Parish Registers"**

By Gail Blankenau

*Gail Blankenau shows how to successfully mine for information in these valuable resources.*

### **"The Etting Connection"**

By Constance R. Cherba

*Constance R. Cherba documents her research into a Hollywood actress and torch singer.*

### **"Border Families"**

By Diane L. Richard

*According to Diane L. Richard, some ancestors were hard to pin down, and for good reasons!*

### **"Ontario Land Records"**

By Guylaine Petrin

*Guylaine Petrin introduces a useful collection of records for Canadian genealogy.*

### **"Harsh Realities: Confronting Difficult Times in the Lives of Our Ancestors"**

By Diane Dittgen

*Diane Dittgen looks at certain events in history that impacted our ancestors' lives.*

### **"Google + Hangouts"**

By Dan Lynch

*Dan Lynch introduces us to one of the great new online tools for family historians.*

### **"The Married Name Problem"**

By J. H. Fonkert, CG

*J. H. Fonkert, CG, documents his quest to discover an elusive maiden Name for Mrs. Katie Romkie.*

**"Using School Censuses"**  
By Leland K. Meitzler

*Leland K. Meitzler teaches the finer points in how to use these enlightening records.*

**"Researching London Ancestors"**  
By John D. Reid

*John D. Reid reviews two recent books that might help you find your London branches.*

**"What Is Your Genealogy Season?"**  
By Lisa A. Alzo

*Lisa A. Alzo gets us thinking about what kind of genealogist we might be.*

**"Burial Location 101"**  
By Jacky Gamble

*As Jacky Gamble discovered, not all cemeteries are created equal.*

If you are a researcher doing German research and working with German handwritten documents, then I would highly recommend you take a good look at the article titled "Ten Tips for Reading German Parish Records" by Gail Blankenau. It is a tremendous "kick in the stomach" when all of our hard German research finally pays off with the discovery of some documents pertaining to our ancestors, especially German Parish Records and we realize the handwriting is literally indecipherable!

These handwriting interpretation problems apply to all genealogical researchers, although I think German handwriting interpretation can be even more challenging from my own personal experiences.

This article provides us with some very good tips on how to go about "cracking the handwriting" dilemma for German Parish Records as well as a 5 links to get you to more online aids to help unravel German handwriting problems. The author provides us with a list of 10 tips to consider that will help unravel your handwriting interpretation problems for German documents.

The 10 tips mentioned are:

1. **Print Out the Alphabet in Different Germanic Scripts** – have some printed materials showing the various Germanic scripts when you are looking at the documents. These visual aids can be invaluable.
2. **Focus First on Names** – proper names are often easier to decode. Letters in these names can help you unravel other words in the document.

3. **List Villages in Your Parish** - know the villages that may be in the parish of your research because you should be easily be able to distinguish between records from Oesterwiehe and from Bornholte. This will allow you to focus on the records of your ancestors without looking at all of the details for each entry. Find the records of the village of your interest.
  
4. **A Later or Earlier Clerk May Have Better Handwriting** – we all have records from individuals that we wonder how they could have been in a position of such importance and cannot write legibly! Go backwards in time a few years or forward from your time period to see if you can find more legible writing. How does your surname appear in these better written pages? Just seeing your name of interest written better may allow you to find it among those names in the poorly written part of the register.
  
5. **Look for a Word You Recognize on the Same Page** – look for a word that is more recognizable earlier on in the days entries when the writer was more energized and careful in writing. As the day wears on their handwriting may become more illegible. Seeing a recognized word earlier on may help you to more easily find that same word more easily later on in the day when it is more illegible.
  
6. **Pick Out the Vowels** – sometimes the vowels just seem easier to identify.
  
7. **Use a Good Genealogical Dictionary** – consider using Ernest Thode's German Genealogical Dictionary for word meanings but also to help you read the record. Sometimes deciphering the first two or three letters can get you to the dictionary location of the words that might match what is in writing.
  
8. **Word Length** – word length and the dictionary can help you rule out certain words. Instead of a hyphen as we use today to show a separation of a word, back then it was common to use a "+" sign at the end of part of a word on one line and the continuation on the next line.
  
9. **Look for Letters That Go "Below the Line"** – capital letters "E" "G" "H" and "J" often sweep below the line. Consonants "f" "g" "h" "p" "s" "y" and "z" also often sweep down below the line.
  
10. **Design Your Own Key Sheet** – try writing your own surname in German script. Look at the book by Edna M. Bentz titled "If I Can, You Can Decipher Germanic Records". Make notes onto your own personal key sheet for deciphering you have accomplished in records you looked at. Your own developed translation sheets will be your best guide for future interpretations.

The author also included some web sites to visit to get visuals on interpreting these challenging Germanic written documents. Take a look at the following links for further help in deciphering Germanic handwriting:

- <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kobie/script.htm>
- [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- [www.rootdig.com/european2.html](http://www.rootdig.com/european2.html)
- [www.kindredroots.com/What/germanletters/germanletters.htm](http://www.kindredroots.com/What/germanletters/germanletters.htm)
- <http://knol.google.com/k/paul-karl-moeller/german-scripts/3pj5r6n3uurvd/11>

Deciphering German handwriting from the time of our ancestors can be a daunting challenge. The article above with its tips and the links provided can help you make a better attempt to “crack the code” from the documents of your ancestors from Germany. It can be frustratingly challenging. Work at it. Practice it. You may find that it gets easier enough for you to get that one kernel of evidence of an ancestor from a German Parish Register to make it worth your effort. And then you can become an expert and help others learn how to decipher these Germanic written documents.

Another good article in this recent issue of Family Chronicle is one titled “The Married Name Problem: Finding a Maiden Name for Mrs. Katie Romkie” by J. H. Fonkert, CG.

This is a very common and universal problem all genealogists face. How do we discover the maiden names of many of our female ancestors? This problem literally applies to 50% of our overall genealogy simply because our statistical male/female breakdown is 50% for each sex.

This problem of identification is made even more complex because the mores of the times of our ancestors literally precluded women from participating in events of their times where a paper trail may have been required. With fewer paper trails of life’s important events we have an even lesser chance of discovering these elusive maiden names.

The author indicates that the best place to discover this elusive piece of maiden name information is to discover it on marriage records or death records. As for marriage records, it is really the **first** marriage that will provide the actual evidence because if there was a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> marriage involved, it was often the married name of the first husband that might appear on a subsequent marriage record and not the true maiden name of the woman. Sometimes when a marriage record does not provide the information you may have to consider researching newspapers around the time of the marriage that may have mentioned an engagement taking place or may have reported on the actual wedding. The maiden name may be found in these two reporting events.

A woman’s death certificate is no guarantee you will find the maiden name. My own personal research sometimes is about a 50/50 chance. The death certificate information is provided by someone. It is amazing that even if a child is the one reporting the information you may often discover that **NO** maiden name is provided by the responder on the death certificate even if that person is a child. And sometimes when you see a maiden name listed it is the name guessed at by the responder and may be totally inaccurate!

The author notes that obituaries may also be a good source of maiden names. They often are. Plenty of obituaries exist in which the proverbial “nee” is shown after the woman’s married name at death, thus giving you the maiden name. Sometimes it is not

stated so obviously. If living male siblings of the deceased female are stated you will see the maiden name of the deceased through the relationship to a sibling male.

The author also notes that sometimes a State Census in-between the Federal Census may provide such maiden name information simply because these censuses often asked for a lot of information that generally wasn't contained on a Federal Census.

The author also suggests that consideration should be made for Declarations of Intent for Citizenship. That source may be a helpful source of a maiden name.

Basically, you need to be creative in your search knowing other sources of discovering the maiden name of a female when it cannot be found in the two most notable spots, that being a marriage record or a death record.

The author does note that your discovery of a maiden name may be a longer, more indirect route for you to take. Sometimes you will discover a variety of sources that create a pathway to discovery but without providing you the discovery in one discovery of evidence. The author provides an example of using an Iowa State Census for 1885 to discover that a female whose maiden name is unknown was born in Lee County, Iowa. The author then incorporated a search for the 1900 US Census in order to see if they could obtain a month of birth and year of birth for the female. The 1900 US Census is the only one that provides this nice piece of personal information that can be used for other research.

The 1900 Census information also seemed to indicate that the wife in the census was not the one being researched thus leading to the possibility that she was wife "number 2". This discovery then led the author to look for an obituary on the female in question back in Iowa. Though rich in information, the obituary did not identify the maiden name of the deceased female. I will bet you have encountered this more than a few times in your own personal research. Just when you think you have made a discovery you come up with nothing!

The author then started digging into relationships between the husband's surname as the name taken by the female and discovered the husband had bought land from another close by family. This other family name was then put into further research. Cemetery research then indicated that the deceased female with the surname of ROMKEE was buried next to a person with a surname of GERLOFF. It just so happened that the land record information showed that the husband had bought some land from a GERLOFF. Was there a connection between the GERLOFF surname and the ROMKEE surname??

The author then researched some wills and finally made the ultimate discovery. The female with the married surname of ROMKEE was actually a GERLOFF. This was finally uncovered in the research using wills when it was clearly stated that the female ROMKEE was in fact the daughter of the deceased GERLOFF, hence the female was a GERLOFF! She was mentioned in the will directly as the daughter of the deceased GERLOFF.

The author in a serendipitous manner still did further research and ultimately did discover the marriage record for the female GERLOFF and the male ROMKEE in an adjoining county from where the female was born. Obviously, had the author done the research in the manner he did initially, the discovery of the marriage record would have been done earlier on. We know things don't always work out that easily. This is why the author was tenacious enough to work to make the discovery in an indirect manner using a series of discoveries he tied together to ultimately come up with the answer.

This article provides a great lesson in how to go about making a discovery by using a series of resources that may ultimately lead to your major discovery. It also becomes a great learning tool for the researcher to get out of your normal comfort zone and learn about resources that you may have never used in the past. The more you learn in your genealogical research about methods and resources using a real life example, the easier it will be for the next brick wall you will definitely encounter.

Once again, this is a very good issue of Family Chronicle. It is loaded with many good articles, any one of which can pull back the curtain on your genealogy research brick walls. I highly recommend this journal to subscribe to or to read through the copy we have in our library.

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

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### BOOKS IN PRINT

There was no new genealogy book added to our collection during this newsletter period.

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There was no new second genealogy book added to our collection during this newsletter period.

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### SOFTWARE/HARDWARE

*The following articles are from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter October 28, 2011 and November 1, 2011 and are copyright by Richard W. Eastman 2011. They are re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>*

**Hands On with Shoebox for the iPhone by 1000Memories (October 28, 2011)**



This week I had a chance to use Shoebox. It is an application for the iPhone recently introduced by [1000Memories](http://1000Memories.com). Shoebox effectively places a scanner in your iPhone. You can read the announcement at <http://goo.gl/IOX25>.

You can find any number of applications that allow you to take pictures of pictures, using the iPhone's camera. In fact, even the standard iPhone without any extra software will do that. What makes Shoebox different, however, is its ability to automatically detect the edges of a photo and then quickly crop and straighten the photo accordingly. Even if the picture was not perfectly aligned with the camera when the iPhone picture is taken, Shoebox will correct the alignment and show a picture that is perfectly aligned.

Shoebox then allows the user to add information typically written on the back of old photos, such as dates, names, and locations. The photos then are uploaded to the [1000memories.com](http://1000memories.com) web site, where they can be organized, shared and discovered by friends and family.

The Shoebox software for the iPhone is available free of charge and an account on [1000Memories.com](http://1000Memories.com) to share the photos is also available free of charge.

Obviously, the higher the resolution of the camera in the iPhone, the better the results. This should work really well with the new iPhone 4S with the 8-megapixel camera. For my test, however, I used a 9-month-old iPhone 4 with a 5 megapixel camera and I must say that I was pleased with the results. In fact, scanning a 4-by-6-inch photo produced a digital image that is nearly as good as those produced by the large flatbed scanner on my desktop.



Downloading and installing the Shoebox software into the iPhone was a typical Apple experience: simple. With the iPhone, touch App Store, search for SHOEBOX, click INSTALL, wait a few seconds, and everything is then ready for use.

When launching Shoebox for the first time, you will be prompted to create a free user account on 1000Memories.com. If you already have an account, you can log in with that. The account creation process is simple; you are asked for your name, email address, and for a password you create. You are not asked for address, telephone number, credit card information, or anything other than name, email address, and a (new) password.

To scan a photograph, launch the Showbox software. Keep in mind that the Apple camera likes to have plenty of light. To be sure, newer iPhones do have a built-in flash but you will obtain better results when using natural sunlight. I'd suggest taking pictures near a window. Make sure you can see all four corners of the photograph before touching the CAMERA button.

When the CAMERA button is pressed, the iPhone camera takes a picture in the normal manner. Next, you see the picture displayed on the iPhone's screen and "crop marks" are shown. The software tries to detect the edges of the photograph automatically. If you accept the automatically-detected edges, press NEXT. If not, you can manually adjust the crop marks as you wish. If you manually make changes, the area you are changing appears in a "magnifying glass" as a highly magnified image, allowing you to make precise adjustments.

In my experience, the automatic detection of photo edges always worked perfectly. I never had to make any changes.

You can also rotate the image which is handy if you were holding the iPhone 90 degrees from the alignment of the photograph being scanned (landscape versus portrait).

After alignment and edge detection has been completed, you are prompted to add the names of every person in the photograph. Finally, you may (optionally) enter a caption of your choice, the date of the picture (approximate date is acceptable) and location. You also may optionally share the photo on Twitter or Facebook.

Pressing DONE uploads the photo to the 1000Memories.com web site. Once on the site, you may make further adjustments or add more information. Others may see the photo and optionally add their comments as well, if they wish.

The photo that accompanies this article is a picture of me and my "friend," taken when I was perhaps 6 or 7 years old. The original picture is a tiny 2-inch-by-3-inch snapshot that looks "grainy" to begin with. I'd say the scanned image is a good reproduction of the original. Obviously, better originals will result in better scanned images.

All photos you upload are placed in your "shoebox" and are visible to everyone. A unique URL (web address) is assigned to your shoebox that you can give to others or place in your blog or Google+ or Facebook page.

You can see my public shoebox at <http://1000memories.com/richard-eastman-812184>. When you first go to that page, you see a menu of options. Clicking on UPLOADS displays the photographs. So far, I have only uploaded one photograph.

The 1000Memories web site is an interesting mix of family trees and photographs. You can build a family tree online. While not required, the intent appears to have at least one photograph accompany each person's information. You are prompted to add each person's name, (optional) date of birth, and the person's email address. You can enter ancestors going back hundreds of years, should you wish to do so, although the earlier ancestors obviously won't have pictures or email addresses. I suspect that most users will instead focus on adding information and photographs of more recent ancestors, aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings, and others.

1000Memories has several other available options. For instance, you can use it as a guestbook where family and friends may write public messages and notes. You can use 1000Memories to collaboratively raise funds for a charitable purpose, such as medical research, a local church, or to establish a scholarship.

You can also download photos from 1000Memories.com, meaning the scanned photos you upload can easily be transferred to a desktop, laptop, or handheld computer.

Using 1000Memories does not require the use of an iPhone running Shoebox. You also may directly upload photos from your computer or import them from Facebook or Picasa.

In short, Shoebox for the iPhone is a great tool when combined with the 1000Memories web site. The software is free, the web site is free, and the results are worthwhile. Please keep in mind that everything you upload is visible to everyone on the Internet. I would not upload pictures of other people without their permission and I would suggest you always be sensitive to the privacy concerns of others. In my mind, that is simple "Internet etiquette" that applies to all web sites, not just to 1000Memories.com.

For more information about Shoebox for the iPhone, go to <http://1000memories.com/shoebox> or use your iPhone to visit the iPhone App Store and search for SHOEBBOX or watch the Shoebox commercial on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/v/szS5q85cC7E> and another at <http://www.youtube.com/v/lo7h8pSqDC8>

Posted by Dick Eastman on October 28, 2011 in [Software](#) | [Permalink](#)

### Turn Off File Sharing in Your Laptop! (November 1, 2011)



During our recent power outage (caused by this weekend's freak snowstorm), I took refuge at a public library in a town some miles away. That library did have power and wi-fi Internet connections. Most important of all, the building also had heat. I spent several hours there yesterday, building the Plus Edition email newsletter and then

sending it by email to each subscriber.

While at the library, I found huge security issues. Actually, I have seen them before when in hotel rooms or in public waiting areas at airports. However, I saw more security issues within a few minutes yesterday than I had ever seen before at any one time. About 30 or 40 people were in the library at the time, most of them using laptop computers. I believe that most of them, like me, were there to use the wi-fi Internet connection. In fact, there were so many of us using the single wi-fi router that it kept locking up and crashing every half hour or so.

In my Mac, I opened the Airport icon (Airport is the Macintosh term for wi-fi networking) and looked at available systems. About two dozen computers were listed. Some of the computers were listed by the names of the owners while others had some cryptic names, such as: BF354SA. This is not unusual for any place where a lot of laptop computers are in use in a small area. In any Windows or Macintosh computer, you can normally see the names of nearby computers on the same network you are using.

### **Now for the fun part:**

I started clicking on computer names at random. On about half the computers in the network, I was able to gain access to the computer's contents **without being asked for a user name or password!** Yes, these people have configured file sharing on their laptop computers. The use of user names and passwords is optional in today's operating systems although I will suggest that it should be mandatory. Setting up file or printer sharing without requiring user names and highly-secure passwords is a security problem by itself. Then taking that computer to a public area where dozens of people will have access to your most important files strikes me as high risk.

I admit that I poked around in other people's computers for a bit. On a couple of computers I accessed, I could see and copy anything in the Documents folders and other folders as well. I even copied a couple of MP3 music files from one person's iTunes folder. Another person had a folder named "QuickBooks" but I decided to not click on it. There are some things I don't want to know!

In short, these people were making their sensitive files available to everyone. That's sort of like leaving the front door unlocked in your home when you leave the premises. You don't know who will access your things.

I checked my own laptop's configuration. I had file sharing turned off, so no one can access my files. Admittedly, when at home I do use file sharing occasionally to copy files from the desktop to the laptop or vice versa. However, I only turn file sharing on for the few minutes I actually need it, and then a user name and password are required to gain access from any other computer on the network. When finished, I always turn file sharing off in the laptop computer.

Let me ask you some questions: Do you have file sharing or printer sharing turned on? If so, are a user name and password required to gain access to your files? Not only are you at risk while at the library, but also when using your computer at the airport, in a hotel room, on the commuter train, or even at home if you have neighbors within wi-fi range.

It is bad enough to enable wide open file sharing without user names and passwords on a desktop computer where your next-door-neighbors might be able to access your files by wi-fi. However, it is far worse when you take a laptop computer to a library, courthouse,

hotel room, or airport waiting lounge where many more laptop computers are in use, greatly increasing the odds that someone will discover that your computer's "front door is unlocked."

Again, file sharing is not the culprit. You can turn on file sharing and still maintain security by requiring user names and lengthy passwords. The security problems arise from turning on file sharing and then not requiring user names and passwords for access.

For **Windows XP** users, instructions may be found on Microsoft's support site at <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/307874>

For **Windows Vista** users, instructions may be found on Microsoft's support site at <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb727037.aspx>

For **Windows 7** users, instructions may be found on Microsoft's support site at <http://social.technet.microsoft.com/Forums/en/w7itprosecurity/thread/9a87b20f-15a4-4eff-b678-f228166f6d0a>

For **Macintosh** users, go to System Preferences, click on Sharing, and make sure all the boxes are unchecked. You can also watch a video on Apple's web site at <http://www.apple.com/findouthow/mac/#wirelessmore>

**Posted by Dick Eastman on November 01, 2011 in [Software](#) | [Permalink](#)**

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## **FUNNY BONE**

### A Genealogist's Christmas Eve

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even my spouse.  
The dining room table with clutter was spread  
with pedigree charts and with letters which said...

"Too bad about the data for which you wrote  
Sank in a storm on an ill-fated boat."  
Stacks of old copies of wills and the such  
were proof that my work had become much too much.

Our children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads.  
And I at my table was ready to drop  
From work on my album with photos to crop.

Christmas was here, and of such was my lot  
That presents and goodies and toys I'd forgot.  
Had I not been so busy with grandparents' wills,

I'd not have forgotten to shop for such thrills.

While others had bought gifts that would bring Christmas cheer,  
I'd spent my time researching those birthdates and years.  
While I was thus musing about my sad plight,  
A strange noise on the lawn gave me such a great fright.

Away to the window I flew in a flash,  
Tore open the drapes and I yanked up the sash.  
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But an overstuffed sleigh and eight small reindeer.

Up to the housetop the reindeer they flew,  
With a sleigh full of toys, and 'ole Santa Claus, too.  
And then in a twinkle, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of thirty-two hoofs.

The TV antenna was no match for their horns,  
And look at our roof with hoof-prints adorned.  
As I drew in my head, and bumped it on the sash,  
Down the cold chimney fell Santa--KER-RASH!

"Dear" Santa had some for the roof in a wreck,  
And tracked soot on the carpet (I could wring his short neck!).  
Spotting my face, good old Santa could see  
I had no Christmas spirit you'd have to agree.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work  
And filled all the stockings (I felt like a jerk).  
Here was Santa, who'd brought us such gladness and joy;  
When I'd been too busy for even one toy.

He spied my research on the table all spread  
"A genealogist!" He cried! (My face was all red!)  
"Tonight I've met many like you," Santa grinned,  
As he pulled from his sack a large book he had penned.

I gazed with amazement-the cover it read  
"Genealogy Lines for Which You have Plead."  
"I know what it's like as a genealogy bug,"  
He said as he gave me a great Santa hug.

While the elves make the sleighful of toys I now carry,  
I do some research in the North Pole Library."  
"A special treat I am thus able to bring,  
To genealogy folks who can't find a thing.

Now off you go to your bed for a rest,  
I'll clean up the house from this genealogy mess."  
As I climbed up the stairs full of gladness and glee,  
I looked back at Santa who'd brought much to me.

While settling in bed, I heard Santa's clear whistle

To his team, which then rose like the down of a thistle.  
And I heard him exclaim as he flew out of sight,  
"Family History is Fun! Merry Christmas! Goodnight!"

(Author unknown)

I hope that all of you will enjoy this as much as I did when it arrived  
from another genealogist. Happy Holidays!

Bettye Davis

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*(Additions Since Last Newsletter Indicated With An "\*" )*

Dec 13      Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
TUE        130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7  
2011        PM.  
             **Break Out Sessions/Small Group Discussions.**  
             Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
             Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Jan 7        Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists. Saturday, January 7, 2012.  
SAT        **"Organizing and Writing Your Family History".**  
2012        Presented by Steve Szabados  
             Arlington Heights Senior Center.  
             1801 West Central Road. Arlington Heights, IL.  
             847-398-1884 or 847-593-8160.  
             Pre-Meeting Round Table/Helping/Sharing at 9:30 AM  
             Speaker program starts at 10:00 AM  
             Visit the society website at [www.NWSCG.com](http://www.NWSCG.com)

Jan 10      Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
TUE        130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7  
2012        PM.  
             **"Social Networking for Genealogists: Family Trees, FaceBook,  
             Blogs and More"**  
             Presented by Caron Brennan.  
             Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
             Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Jan 14      CAGG-NI. Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois. Meetings  
SAT        held the 3rd Saturday of each month at Schaumburg Township District  
2012        Library.

130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL. 10:30 AM.  
Topic for the meeting "**Second Saturday Workshop Series – Slideshows and Movies**"  
Presented by Michelle Wilson  
Further information at: [www.caggni.org](http://www.caggni.org) or  
P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567

Jan 18 DuPage County Genealogical Society. Wednesday, January 18, 2012.  
WED Wheaton Public Library (Lower Level) 225 N. Cross St., Wheaton, IL 60187.  
2012 6:30 PM Refreshments. Program begins at 7:00 PM.  
Program title is "**Visualizing Your Genealogical Data: Excel, OneNote, Maps, Blogs**".  
Guest speaker is Jennifer Holik.  
Society website at [www.dcggs.org](http://www.dcggs.org).  
DuPage County History Museum website at [www.dupageco.org/museum](http://www.dupageco.org/museum)

\*Jan 21 CAGG-NI. Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois. Meetings  
SAT held the 3rd Saturday of each month at Schaumburg Township District  
2012 Library.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL. 10:30 AM.  
Topic for the meeting "**Digital Scrapbooking: Presenting Your Family History**"  
Presented by Kate Thommes  
Further information at: [www.caggni.org](http://www.caggni.org) or  
P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567

Feb 4 Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists. Saturday, February 4, 2012.  
SAT "**Investigating Resources at ChicagoAncestors.org**".  
2012 Presented by Sandra Trapp  
Arlington Heights Senior Center.  
1801 West Central Road. Arlington Heights, IL.  
847-398-1884 or 847-593-8160.  
Pre-Meeting Round Table/Helping/Sharing at 9:30 AM  
Speaker program starts at 10:00 AM  
Visit the society website at [www.NWSCG.com](http://www.NWSCG.com)

Feb 14 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
TUE 130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7  
2012 PM.  
"**Using Railroad Records in Your Family History Research**"  
Presented by Craig Pfannkuche.  
Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

\*Feb 18 CAGG-NI. Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois. Meetings  
SAT held the 3rd Saturday of each month at Schaumburg Township District  
2012 Library.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL. 10:30 AM.  
Topic for the meeting "**They Weren't All Gangsters: Roaring Wheels of Change ... 1920s in Chicago**"  
Presented by Donna Primas  
Further information at: [www.caggni.org](http://www.caggni.org) or



P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567

- Feb 25 DuPage County Genealogical Society. Saturday, February 25, 2012.  
SAT 8:00 AM Refreshments. Programs begin at 9:00 AM.  
2012 DuPage County Genealogical Society Annual Conference.  
Guest speakers.  
Society website at [www.dcgs.org](http://www.dcgs.org).  
Society blog at <http://dupagecountygenealogicalsociety.wordpress.com/>  
DuPage County History Museum website at [www.dupageco.org/museum](http://www.dupageco.org/museum)
- \*Mar 3 Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists. Saturday, March 3, 2012.  
SAT **"A Brief History of Germans in Poland and Russia"**.  
2012 Presented by Walter Marzinke  
Arlington Heights Senior Center.  
1801 West Central Road. Arlington Heights, IL.  
847-398-1884 or 847-593-8160.  
Pre-Meeting Round Table/Helping/Sharing at 9:30 AM  
Speaker program starts at 10:00 AM  
Visit the society website at [www.NWSCG.com](http://www.NWSCG.com)
- Mar 10 CAGG-NI. Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois. Meetings  
SAT held the 3rd Saturday of each month at Schaumburg Township District  
2012 Library.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL. 10:30 AM.  
Topic for the meeting **"Second Saturday Workshop Series – Technology  
Basics for Genealogists"**  
Presented by Skip Bieber  
Further information at: [www.caggni.org](http://www.caggni.org) or  
P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567
- Mar 13 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
TUE 130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7  
2012 PM.  
**Break Out Sessions/Small Group Discussions.**  
Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>
- \*Mar 17 CAGG-NI. Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois. Meetings  
SAT held the 3rd Saturday of each month at Schaumburg Township District  
2012 Library.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL. 10:30 AM.  
Topic for the meeting **"What's New in Technology"**  
Presented by Ed Rosenthal  
Further information at: [www.caggni.org](http://www.caggni.org) or  
P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567
- Mar 21 DuPage County Genealogical Society. Wednesday, March 21, 2012.  
WED Wheaton Public Library (Lower Level) 225 N. Cross St., Wheaton, IL 60187.  
2012 6:30 PM Refreshments. Program begins at 7:00 PM.  
Program title is **"Breaking Down a Brick Wall: A Case Study in Unlocking  
My Irish Ancestry"**.  
Guest speaker is Nancy Thomas.  
Society website at [www.dcgs.org](http://www.dcgs.org).

Society blog at <http://dupagecountygenealogicalsociety.wordpress.com/>  
DuPage County History Museum website at [www.dupageco.org/museum](http://www.dupageco.org/museum)

- Apr 7  
SAT  
2012 Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists. Saturday, April 7, 2012.  
"Searching for Great Grandpa – Find Your Union Soldier".  
Presented by Jerry Allen  
Arlington Heights Senior Center.  
1801 West Central Road. Arlington Heights, IL.  
847-398-1884 or 847-593-8160.  
Pre-Meeting Round Table/Helping/Sharing at 9:30 AM  
Speaker program starts at 10:00 AM  
Visit the society website at [www.NWSCG.com](http://www.NWSCG.com)
- Apr 10  
TUE  
2012 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7  
PM.  
"Understanding the English Census"  
Presented by Paul Milner.  
Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>
- Apr 14  
SAT  
2012 CAGG-NI. Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois. Meetings  
held the 3rd Saturday of each month at Schaumburg Township District  
Library.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL. 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM  
Topic for the meeting "Second Saturday Workshop Series – Local  
Resources"  
Presented by To Be Determined  
Further information at: [www.caggni.org](http://www.caggni.org) or  
P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567
- Apr 18  
WED  
2012 DuPage County Genealogical Society. Wednesday, April 18, 2012.  
Wheaton Public Library (Lower Level) 225 N. Cross St., Wheaton, IL 60187.  
6:30 PM Refreshments. Program begins at 7:00 PM.  
Program title is "Finding and Using Sanborn Maps".  
Guest speaker is Jeffrey Bockman.  
Society website at [www.dcfgs.org](http://www.dcfgs.org).  
Society blog at <http://dupagecountygenealogicalsociety.wordpress.com/>  
DuPage County History Museum website at [www.dupageco.org/museum](http://www.dupageco.org/museum)
- \*Apr 21  
SAT  
2012 CAGG-NI. Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois. Meetings  
held the 3rd Saturday of each month at Schaumburg Township District  
Library.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL. 10:30 AM.  
Topic for the meeting "Setting Up Your Family History Website"  
Presented by Panel of CAGGNI Members  
Further information at: [www.caggni.org](http://www.caggni.org) or  
P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567
- \*May 5  
SAT  
2012 Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists. Saturday, May 5, 2012.  
"Finding Online Newspapers".  
Presented by Sarah A. V. Kirby

Arlington Heights Senior Center.  
1801 West Central Road. Arlington Heights, IL.  
847-398-1884 or 847-593-8160.  
Pre-Meeting Round Table/Helping/Sharing at 9:30 AM  
Speaker program starts at 10:00 AM  
Visit the society website at [www.NWSCG.com](http://www.NWSCG.com)

May 8  
TUE  
2012  
Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.  
**"Military Service Records"**  
Presented by Kathryn Barrett.  
Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

May 16  
WED  
2012  
DuPage County Genealogical Society. Wednesday, May 16, 2012.  
Wheaton Public Library (Lower Level) 225 N. Cross St., Wheaton, IL 60187.  
6:30 PM Refreshments. Program begins at 7:00 PM.  
Program title is **"From Land Records to Google Earth: Mapping Your Family's Place"**.  
Guest speaker is Jane Haldeman.  
Society website at [www.dcg.org](http://www.dcg.org).  
Society blog at <http://dupagecountygenealogicalsociety.wordpress.com/>  
DuPage County History Museum website at [www.dupageco.org/museum](http://www.dupageco.org/museum)

\*May 19  
SAT  
2012  
CAGG-NI. Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois. Meetings held the 3rd Saturday of each month at Schaumburg Township District Library.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL. 10:30 AM.  
Topic for the meeting **"Mining the Census Records"**  
Presented by Steve Szabados  
Further information at: [www.caggni.org](http://www.caggni.org) or  
P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567

Jun 12  
TUE  
2012  
Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.  
**Break Out Sessions/Small Group Discussions.**  
Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Jul 10  
TUE  
2012  
Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.  
**"Hiring A Professional Genealogist"**  
Presented by Jeanne Larzalere Bloom.  
Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Aug 14  
TUE  
2012  
Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.  
**"Liven Up Your Family History with Images"**

Presented by Mike Karsen.  
Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Sep 11  
TUE  
2012

Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.

**Break Out Sessions/Small Group Discussions.**

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\*Sep 15  
SAT  
2012

CAGG-NI. Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois. Meetings held the 3rd Saturday of each month at Schaumburg Township District Library.

130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL. 10:30 AM.

Topic for the meeting "**Deep Ancestry: Beyond the Paper Trail**"

Presented by Michelle Wilson

Further information at: [www.caggni.org](http://www.caggni.org) or

P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567

Oct 9  
TUE  
2012

Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.

**"Organizing and Writing My Family History"**

Presented by Steve Szabados.

Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.

Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

\*Oct 20  
SAT  
2012

CAGG-NI. Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois. Meetings held the 3rd Saturday of each month at Schaumburg Township District Library.

130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL. 10:30 AM.

Topic for the meeting "**What's New At Family Search**"

Presented by Susan Anderson

Further information at: [www.caggni.org](http://www.caggni.org) or

P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567

\*Nov 13  
TUE  
2012

Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.

**"Family History Research in Illinois and Wisconsin"**

Presented by Maureen Brady.

Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.

Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Dec 11  
TUE  
2012

Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.

**Break Out Sessions/Small Group Discussions.**

Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.

Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Jan 8

Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.

- TUE  
2013
- 130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.  
**"Program to Be Determined"**  
 Presented by To Be Determined.  
 Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
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- Feb 12  
TUE  
2013
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- Mar 12  
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- Aug 13  
TUE  
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TUE  
2013
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2013
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