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January 10, 2012 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our January 10, 2012 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"!

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Handout #1 – VISIT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY GENEALOGY BLOG

I will continue to remind participants of our library’s new genealogy blog. You can access it through our library home page at www.SchaumburgLibrary.org by scrolling across the top of the first page and look for the tab that says “Local History and Genealogy”. Click on that tab and look on the right side for our library genealogy blog on the right side that says “Tony’s Genealogy Blog”.

Or you can just go directly to the blog at:

<http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

You will find postings on upcoming programs, both at our library, and elsewhere in the area. You will also find a myriad of other kinds of postings, especially those that I offer on “Genealogy Tips” to help make your research efforts more productive.

You will also find our Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Newsletter and our “Program Handouts” at the blog as PDF files for you to view online, or download and save to your own computer for future referral.

Please remember that the blog will be the place to retrieve the newsletter and the “handouts”. I do not plan on making paper handouts of these available for distribution at the program or for mailing to individuals.

Try to visit the blog frequently to see what is going on. Subscribe to the blog via RSS (Really Simple Syndication) and you will receive notices when a new post or comment has been made at the blog. Or, just click on the WordPress icon in the lower right part of your screen that simply states “Follow”. By clicking on the “Follow” link you will subscribe to the blog and will receive follow-up e-mail notices when I publish a new post.

Our blog is the way of the future and the future is here now!

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Handout #2 – NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COUNCIL OF GENEALOGISTS ON FEBRUARY 4, 2012

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, February 4, 2012. The program for the morning is titled **“Investigating Resources At ChicagoAncestors.org”**. The speaker for the evening will be Sandra Trapp.

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

You may visit the society web page at for any further details on the program as well as on the society:

www.NWSCG.com

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Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT SOCIETY PROGRAM ON JANUARY 18, 2012

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 and Blogs”**. The speaker for the program will be Jennifer Holik-Urban.

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.

This meeting will take place at the Wheaton Public Library, Lower Level Meeting Room. The address of the Library is 225 N. Cross 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.dcfgs.org

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON JANUARY 21, 2012

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, January 21, 2012 from 10:30 AM until 12:30 PM at the Hanover Park Branch of the Schaumburg Township District Library located at 1266 Irving Park Road in Hanover Park, IL. 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 to find out further information about this program and other future programs the society has on their schedule at:

www.CAGGNI.org

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

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**Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT
GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON FEBRUARY 14, 2012**

Our topic for our next program on February 14, 2012 will be **“Using Railroad Records in Your Family History Research”**. Our speaker for the evening will be Craig Pfannkuche.

Railroad Records can be a great source of information on your ancestors. Railroads were considered the largest employers of the times in the 1850s to 1900s. There is an entire stand alone organization for the Railroad Retirement Board that may have a great deal of information on your ancestors that may have worked for and retired from the railroads.

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.

You may visit the library’s web page at:

www.SchaumburgLibrary.org

to view a Calendar of Events section of the library web page for this program and for many more non-genealogical programs offered by our library.

You can also visit the Genealogy Blog of the library that is authored by Tony Kierna. Visit the blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com> for all things related to genealogy and the genealogy programs at the Schaumburg Township District Library.

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Handout #6 – DICK EASTMAN WEBSITE IS THE 13TH MOST POPULAR GENEALOGY WEBSITE

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated December 16, 2011.

I was pleased to read John Reid's latest article comparing the most popular genealogy web sites, based on data from Alexa. John's list shows the site you are reading right now, [eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com), is the 13th most popular genealogy-related site in the world.

In fact, it was #1 of all the sites that have no online genealogy records, no software to download, and no DNA tests to perform. Not bad for a news and reviews site! I'm proud of that.

Details of all the most popular genealogy sites worldwide are available on John Reid's blog at <http://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/2011/12/genealogy-site-rankings.html>

John's blog also made a very respectable showing at #24 on the list and for good reasons: it's a good one.

My thanks to John Reid for compiling the list and especially to you, the readers, for stopping by and reading the articles so often.

Comments by Tony Kierna

I spend a good amount of time, both personally and as part of my job, frequenting Dick Eastman's website routinely. In the world of genealogy news and tidbits of information, I liken Dick Eastman's website to him being the Wall Street Journal for finance or his site being the equivalent of US News and World Report for worldwide news items.

I am so thankful that there is Dick Eastman and that he does what he does for all of us that have picked up the genealogy bug! Thank you Dick Eastman from the bottom of my heart!

For anyone beginning their genealogy journey that is not familiar with Dick Eastman I can only say that one of the first websites to bookmark would be Dick's at www.eogn.com. It is almost a certainty that if there is anything new developing in the world of genealogy that you will hear about it from Dick at his site. Dick is really the "go-to" guy when it comes to all things genealogically speaking. Just look at his site and look at all of the various categories of information he has at his site. Whether something in genealogy is technical or software or LDS, you will find some category of information that can help you dramatically as a researcher.

Dick's ranking for his site is amazing considering you can't search his site to look for your surnames of interest. Often, the ability to search a site for our surnames of interest drives us to that site. However, do not overlook Dick's wonderful site to get the news of the day to make your research more productive.

Just from the Newsletter I put together, you can see that it includes at least 10 news items that come from Dick's site. So even if you have not been visiting Dick's site but have been reading or browsing through the Newsletter I create you will realize that you have been getting exposure to the world of Dick Eastman. But there is nothing like visiting his site directly and perusing through all of the information that exists at his site. You can subscribe to his newsletter of information for free or even subscribe to his "plus" newsletter that contains pieces of information only to those that subscribe.

Congratulations to Dick Eastman for the wonderful job of keeping all of us informed when it comes to developments in the world of genealogy. It is so good to see that you are thought of so much to generate the high numbers of visitors to your site even though no one can search your site for surnames. We all want to keep current with genealogy news and for that you can't beat Dick Eastman and his site at www.eogn.com.

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Handout #7 – ELIZABETH SHOWN MILLS HAS A NEW WEBSITE

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated December 16, 2011.

Elizabeth Shown Mills is one of the most respected genealogy authors, teachers, and lecturers of today. Now she has created a new web site that links to many of the articles she has written over the years. This should provide a treasure chest of high-quality "how to" information.

Quoting from the site:

For a lifetime, I have pursued those whom history has forgotten. Many have teased me through trails of burned-out courthouses and decades in which no census takers found their cabins. Most have challenged me to separate their identities from hordes of other same-name people. Many have rewarded me. Some of their stories I have told already—as tales, as essays in scholarly journals, or in books of various ilk. At this site, as time allows, I hope to share their stories with those of you who might care to follow them down the pathways these men and women quietly blazed through our nation's past.

Elizabeth is the author, editor, and translator of 13 books and over 500 articles in the fields of genealogy, history, literature, and sociology. She has delivered over 1,000 lectures internationally, has appeared on radio and TV talk shows on three continents, and was featured on BBC's 20th and 30th anniversary specials on the novel *Roots*.

I'd suggest you look at Elizabeth's new web site at <http://historicpathways.com/> and follow the links to her articles. You'll be glad you did.

Comments by Tony Kierna

*For many of us Elizabeth Shown Mills is known as the person we turn to when we want to know how to cite a source for research we have done. If we found something on the internet, Elizabeth has given guidance how to cite that source in our citations for our research. If the material we have is an heirloom, Elizabeth has given us guidance on citing that as a source. It seems that Elizabeth has literally provided answers to all of our citation needs even for things we don't know exist! Her books, **Evidence Explained** and **Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian** are our bibles we refer to for citing our sources of genealogical information.*

But Elizabeth Shown Mills is far more than just the expert on citations for genealogy. She is an incredibly prolific author of both books and articles. From her website it appears she has authored at least 12 books in categories of "Professional Works" as well as "Popular History". She is also the author of material in a category known as "Quicksheets" from her professional works category.

For any genealogy researcher, be they beginner or expert, your paths must ultimately cross with this wonderful author simply due to the knowledge you will

need to develop on citing your sources of genealogical material. **The two books I mention above should be in your very own personal collection.** These books will **NOT** generate dust on them because you will be using them frequently as you make your discoveries and want to know how to cite the discovery in your research.

I was not aware of the magnitude of published articles that have come from Elizabeth. **The wonderful part of her web site regarding these is that you will gain full access to the entirety of the published article in PDF format.** The articles are divided on the website according to the following categories:

- Community Studies
- Historiography and Theory
- Case Studies
- Professional Issues
- Research Reports

I did not see a method at the site to be able to keyword search through the articles. They are individually presented under the categories mentioned above. You could probably do a browser search of the page looking for keywords to point you to articles of interest. You can then click on the link of the article to see it in its entirety. **These article titles should at least be browsed through to see if any are of interest to you.**

You will find a listing of all of the books the author has written with information on how to cite them as well as where to purchase them. The author provides a small summary of what the book is about, how to cite it and where to purchase it.

The author also provides a small listing of some key links to valuable websites divided between sites for "organizations", "educational" and "commercial". You won't find a lot of links here but they may help you if you have not been aware of them.

I would strongly encourage all of you to visit Elizabeth's website, but more importantly I would encourage you to become familiar with her books on citing your sources. Her popularity for this subject is paramount to the degree that many lineage software developers have worked with her and have incorporated her version of citing your sources into their software products. That is fantastic! I think that Legacy software and Rootsweb are two lineage products that have made the arrangement with her and have her permission to incorporate her material into their products.

Take a look at her site and especially the links to full articles she has authored.

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Handout #8 – 5 CLOUD STORAGE SERVICES COMPARED

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated December 6, 2011.

I have written frequently about the various personal cloud services. Of course, so have many other writers. Cloud computing seems to be the hot new thing in computers these days and lots of people are either using cloud services or are contemplating their use.

Do you think you are not interested in cloud services? if so, do you use Gmail or Hotmail or Yahoo Mail or Dropbox or Evernote or Pandora? If so, you are already using cloud services.

Writing in the *IT World* web site, Steven J. Vaughan-Nichols has written a side-by-side comparison of Amazon Cloud Drive vs. iCloud vs. DropBox vs. Google Music vs. Ubuntu One. I thought it was an interesting comparison. If you would like to read the article, go to <http://goo.gl/XPK1N>.

My thanks to Meredith A. Lane for telling me about the article.

Comments by Tony Kierna

"Cloud" storage is becoming the big thing these days. Materials and files normally kept on your own hard drive on your computer are becoming "passé" these days. Putting your material into the "Cloud" provides you and anyone else that you authorize or collaborate with in your research to access the material from anywhere in the world at anytime. Worldwide collaboration with fellow genealogy researchers is not something easily attained if you keep your research material on your own hard drive at home.

As with any product that starts taking off, it can be confusing just understanding what the "new thing" is all about. Then you combine that with the growing success that "Cloud computing" is having and you soon get many, many companies competing for your hard-earned money wanting to provide you with this upcoming service. On the surface this new "cloud computing" sounds like a great idea and you want "in" on the action. But who do you select? What is one company offering over another that should make them the one for you to do select. There are no easy, clear-cut answers to your questions.

Thus, when you come across an article that appears at Dick Eastman website, you take note. Such is the above article with a nice link that provides a great comparative analysis among many of the top players today in the world of "cloud computing".

Sometimes you hear about a new Apple product and think that is the only one. In actuality, they may be, and are, one of many providers with the service. You often think Apple is the one because of their branding names e.g. iPhone, iPod, iMac etc. In this case, you now hear of the iCloud, their version of "cloud computing". Many of us are truly behind the curve in the world of technological advances simply because

what we do on our own home computers works for us. Sometimes being too rigid in our ideas locks us into outdated technology or at the very least creates a large gap between what we do that works and what we could do that works even better!!

Take the opportunity to at least become knowledgeable about the concept of "cloud computing". Your data will exist outside of your own personal home computer hard-drive and in one respect is certainly more secure and accessible should your own hard drive come crashing down. Remember, it will always be that your hard drive will crash and not "if" it will crash. For that reason alone, "Cloud computing" is something we should all at least become informed about and then make a decision after evaluating it whether it is something we want to pursue or add on to our technical knowledge skills.

Enjoy the above article. Technologies are moving forward whether we want to be aware of them or not. I suggest we keep on top of developments that affect our genealogical research rather than trying to make gigantic "catch-up" efforts when the technology has moved way ahead of us.

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Handout #9 – GETTING FAMILY HISTORY INFORMATION THROUGH THE BACK DOOR

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the October-December 2011, Volume 37, Number 4 issue of NGS Magazine.

A good article in this issue is one titled "Getting Family History Information through the Back Door". The author of this article is Jean Wilcox Hibben, Ph.D, CG.

What does the title mean? It means that you need to consider records that are not your first set of major records in your research. Census Records, Vital Records, Land Records etc. all have their major place. In fact, it is often discoveries in these major records that can lead you to pursue "back door" records.

The author makes notes of the following "back door" resources we should not overlook when we are doing our research. Sometimes you will have to work a little harder at poring through these records, especially if they are not available via online indexes. But the rewards can be so much greater because these kinds of "back door" records often portray our ancestors with much greater depth than do Census Records, Vital Records and Land Records. Here are some of the "back door" records to consider:

- **Local Histories – Books and Websites** – while local history information may provide you with descriptions of what took place in an area many years ago, it is not uncommon to find plenty of information on local settlers of the time. Granted, you have to hope that any name you discover applies to your own research, but then again isn't that what research is all about?? You may discover much information about the local history of the region you are researching even if you do not find specific references to your ancestors. Don't forget to search through County History books that were often created at the time of the 100th anniversary of the United States (circa 1876). Our ancestors often "paid" to have lavish family histories included in these publications at the time.
- **Newspaper Articles** – with more and more newspaper information being made available at our fingertips, this is a source that is almost no longer "back door" today because of easier access to the material via indexes. You may find engagement announcements, wedding announcements, family visitor information to families in the area, birth announcements. Our ancestors seemed to use the newspapers in a prolific manner in years past with such kind of announcements. Political correctness was not the "in thing" 100 years ago, so be prepared to discover anything even if it turns out to not be flattering for your ancestor.

- **Newspaper Advertisements** – while looking through newspapers, don't forget to consider the advertisements of the day. Maybe your ancestor was a shopkeeper. Maybe you can find information about the store locations, hours of operations, sales that were offered by your ancestor. I would also consider Classified in this category of advertisements. What about land sales, legal notices or the like. An ancestral name may also appear via this newspaper inclusion.
- **Other Relatives** – not having any luck with direct ancestral research? Don't forget to include researching the history of great-uncles and great-aunts as discoveries there may open up new information for your own direct ancestral research. Collateral line research should always be considered even if you are making headway with direct ancestral research. If you are at a dead end with your direct ancestral research, serendipity has to be considered by researching those collateral lines when available. You may find even more of a goldmine on a family through sibling research than direct ancestral research.
- **Neighbors** – when researching a census don't forget to browse around the "neighborhood" of the census data in homes and apartments that are within the blocks of your area of interest. You could very well discover siblings and married female children right in the neighborhood of your direct ancestral search. I can't tell you how many times I have made a discovery on a family that eluded me only to realize I had been looking at them all along 4 homes down on a census ledger but simply did not know the female's new married name. As a daughter, she was living only 4 doors down from the mother. Discoveries like this happen all of the time when you expand your search horizon to the surrounding neighborhood.
- **eBay** – more and more genealogical "things" are appearing on eBay. eBay appears to have a notification process similar to Google. You enter in a good solid, specific search term into eBay with the assumption that if something appears on the site with the term you used you will be notified by e-mail. The author relates a story of how a search term was entered into eBay as a notification to the author. The author did not really expect to be notified of anything applicable to the search term but within 3 months a notification came to the author. The author discovered that someone on eBay was actually selling ephemera related to her great-grandfather's business of long time ago. The author bid for the material and successfully won the bid and the material.
- **Obscure Records** – think outside the box of Census, Immigration, Naturalization, Military as general categories of the most likely searched records. Sometimes just looking at library material or archive material in a catalog or on the shelf will trigger you to see "obscure" kinds of records that exist. The author used the example of records related to "postmaster". Think of obscure records as Poll Tax, Hearth Tax, Orphanage Records, Voting Registrations, Social Lodge Records, Immigrant Society Records etc. These kind of records do not just pop into your head. Reading up on the times and location of your

ancestors may in fact give you the insights to consider these kind of offbeat "obscure" records that will connect you to an ancestor.

The author did a good job in making us aware of these kinds of "obscure" records that exist in great quantities but are simply not known as to exist. Be open to pursuing these more difficult records to access and look through because they may not be on the internet or be indexed (This harkens back to times not so far back when this is how our genealogical research was done routinely!)

Just when you think you have exhausted all of the major resource information the time becomes right to start looking for the "off the wall" kind of data that may include some really neat information about your particular ancestor.

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Handout #10 – LOOKING FOR GENEALOGICAL JOURNALS ONLINE?

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the December/January 2012, Volume 6, Number 5 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled "Looking for Genealogical Journals Online?". The authors of this article are Ryan J. Woods and Henry B. Hoff. One thing of note about the article is that the authors are answering the question of genealogical journals online not from the broad perspective of journals across the country but those that are online as part of the online collection of the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS). So if you happen to be one doing ancestral research in the eastern part of the United States in New England, then you may want to take note of what the NEHGS has for you. You can find the website of the NEHGS at www.AmericanAncestors.org.

Here are some interesting facts about the society:

- Founded in 1845
- Oldest and Largest genealogical society in the United States
- Headquartered in an 8 story building in Boston, Massachusetts
- Has a membership worldwide of 25,000
- Has a staff of 50
- 200,000 volumes in its library
- 28 million objects in its archives

The flagship journal of the society is *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, that has been published quarterly since 1847. Authoritative compiled genealogies have always been a focus of the *Register*. To take full advantage of the material at the NEHGS site you really need to become a member of the society. Membership rates start out at \$79.95 and can go as high as \$6,000 if you want to become a Life Benefactor. The society does offer some "free" access, but if your ancestral connection is to New England it will behoove you to become a member and take full advantage of all of the material as stated above in the possession of the society.

Here is a list of all of the digitized journals in the possession of the society that would be available to you to access:

- *The American Genealogist*
- *The Virginia Genealogist*
- *The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine*
- *New Netherland Connections*
- *The Connecticut Nutmegger*
- *Mayflower Descendant*
- *The Essex Genealogist*
- *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*
- *The Essex Antiquarian*

Much of what you find within these journals will be about specific family research that may ultimately connect you to your own research. Material here is not often considered "how to" for basic genealogy as you might find in more generic journals.

The indexes to the online journals may be invaluable for you and your research. Variant spellings of names, cross-references of surnames, and a Soundex feature can often be found for you to locate information that may be of help to you.

If you have New England ancestry and were not familiar with the NEHGS, now is your time to discover this great resource, become a member, and search through all of what they have available to members from their web site. You may also want to read the full article to see all of the details of the history of the journals in the list mentioned above. The details of the journals and what issues are in the online collection are spelled out completely in the article.

These are then times I personally would wish for New England ancestors to take advantage of this great research resource, but unfortunately, I have none unless I would include my Polish ancestors that came from the eastern part of Poland by the Baltic!!

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