Schaumburg Township District Library

Genealogy Group Newsletter

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February 2012 --- No. 197

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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MARCH 13, 2012 GENEALOGY PROGRAM TOPIC

We will have another "break-out" session for our gathering in March 2012. Our previous attempts proved to be quite a good success. I would like us to build on those successes and afford those participants the opportunity to meet with those again or sample other groups.

After an initial introduction of new participants at the start of our normally scheduled meeting, we will establish our "breakout" groups at approximately 7:45 PM. We would have these breakout discussions from about 8:00 PM until about 9:30 PM. These groups would consist of about 7 to 8 participants. They would discuss some common topic of genealogy that interests them or from which they could learn even more to assist their research from sharing with others in the group and learning from others within the group.

The groups we previously tried seemed to work out quite well. I want to go with those same groups and am open to suggestions to attempt to add others or delete those that may not have a following.

I want to reconvene the following groups:

Polish Researchers
German Researchers
Czech Researchers
Irish Researchers
Italian Researchers
British Researchers
Scandinavian Researchers
Colonial Americans Researchers

I also will have a Beginner's Group that I will lead.

We will also have the computer in the room for anyone to access the internet.

I would also encourage participants to bring their personal laptop or netbook to these sessions and tap into the internet via our WiFi network. I saw many researchers doing this at our last breakout session and they found it very productive to access internet information while being in one of the groups if they wanted to show something to someone else at the table.

Please remember that the group's composition is based on the numbers that will participate. If only one person is present to participate in the Polish group, then we cannot have a Polish group that evening. I cannot guarantee there will be enough participants to form a group. In that case I would always recommend participating in the Beginner's Group or the Troubleshooting Group.

The key to this effort is to be flexible in selecting a group to work with.
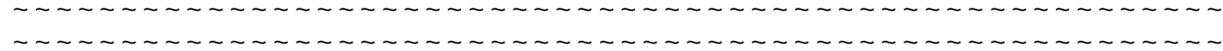
I look forward to our next "break-out" session in March 2012.

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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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

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 159 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 1,178 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 December 1, 2011, December 2, 2011, December 13, 2011, December 16, 2011, December 16, 2011, December 18, 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*.*

Steve Morse Releases the Unified 1940 Census ED Finder (December 26, 2011)

Steve Morse is well known for producing a series of great tools for genealogists at his One-Step website. Now he has added a new tool to assist with the 1940 U.S. Census. Like all his other tools, this one is available free of charge.

Steve writes:

Last week a new 1940 Census tool was added to the Census section of the One-Step website (http://stevemorse.org). It's called the Unified 1940 Census ED Finder (http://stevemorse.org/census/unified.html). Here's some background so that you can appreciate why this tool is necessary and what it does.

As you know, the 1940 census when released on April 2 will not have a name index, and probably won't have a complete one for at least six months. In the interim, the only way to access the census is by ED. That means that researchers will have to determine the EDs for their locations. And the largest collection of tools for doing such is on the One-Step website.

The One-Step 1940 ED tools consists of the Large City ED Finder, the ED Street Finder, the ED Definitions tool, the 1930/1940 ED converter, the ED Map tool, and the Census Tracts tool. That's a daunting number of tools so, to make life simpler, a Tutorial Quiz was recently introduced (yes, another tool) that guides the user through a series of questions and recommends the appropriate tool based on his answers.

But the Tutorial Quiz takes time and understanding, and most researchers would like to just jump in and find their ED. That's what the Unified ED Finder allows them to do. They simply enter on the form as much of their location as they know. The tool then makes the decision as to which of the other One-Step tools is most appropriate, and takes the user directly to that tool with the desired ED (or perhaps a small number of possible EDs) displayed. And each ED so displayed contains a link to the census images for that ED, although the links will not be operational until April 2.

-- Steve

Posted by Dick Eastman on December 26, 2011 in Online Sites **|** Permalink

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12 Things You Can Expect from Ancestry.com in 2012 (December 29, 2011)

Ancestry.com has published a "sneak peek" into the company's plans for 2012, listing twelve projects that are in progress or planned for release within the next twelve months. Of course, the list contains lots of new records to be placed online. After all, this is Ancestry.com. Other items that caught my eye include:

- Clearer images plus new census technology showing more details
- Free family tree apps not only for for Apple and Android, but also for Kindle Fire and Nook
- Advances in Ancestry.com's DNA testing service

You can read the entire list at

http://www.ancestry.com/s49994/t25040/ancestry.com/12

Posted by Dick Eastman on December 29, 2011 in Online Sites **|** Permalink

GenealogyInTime™ Magazine Lists the Top 100 Most Popular Genealogy Websites (January 8, 2012)

GenealogyInTime™ Magazine has put together a global list of the Top 100 Most Popular Genealogy Websites. Others have compiled lists in the past, based on whatever criteria that each organization thought was appropriate, but the latest Top 100 list is the end product of an extensive and exhaustive evaluation of thousands of genealogy websites. The list and the accompanying article provide a considerable amount of insight into the genealogy industry. It can also help you discover some interesting new genealogy websites.

The Top 100 list can also be downloaded as a pdf file.

You can read the Top 100 Most Popular Genealogy Websites at http://goo.gl/HZcdD.

I must say that I was pleased to see this newsletter's web site at www.eogn.com listed as #19 on the list.

Posted by Dick Eastman on January 08, 2012 in Online Sites **|** Permalink

Indiana Lawmakers Consider Fines for Public Access Violators (January 18, 2012)

Genealogists and a few bureaucrats sometimes dispute what records should be available to descendants and to the public. As state representative Kevin Mahan said about bureaucrats who will not release records, "The people we're truly getting at here are just the bad apples. The people where the public access counselor has said this is public information and should be released, and then they basically cross their arms and say 'I don't care, I'm not giving it to them.'"

Mahan has sponsored a bill that would fine bureaucrats who deny access to public records as much as $500 for blatantly violating Indiana's public access laws.
You can read more in an article by Tom Davies published in the News-Sentinel.com web site at

http://goo.gl/ubuJH

Posted by Dick Eastman on January 18, 2012 in Legal affairs **|** Permalink

Numbered Record Books Now Available on Fold3 (January 18, 2012)

Fold3, a subsidiary of Ancestry.com, has issued the following announcement:
The title, "Numbered Record Books," doesn't reveal much about this significant new collection of Revolutionary War documents on Fold3. Yet, anyone familiar with these military records—oaths of allegiance, supply records, orderly books, letters, account ledgers—knows they contain revealing and rather extraordinary documents from the early days of our nation's military history.

Whether you have Revolutionary War ancestors, or simply an interest in military activities and history of this time period, you will be well rewarded when searching or browsing the Numbered Record Books.

Several of the volumes were used to create compiled service records (also on Fold3). This card from the service record of Corporal Thomas Ferguson was abstracted from information on the fifth line of this roll of the 2nd New Jersey Regiment, January 1, 1777.
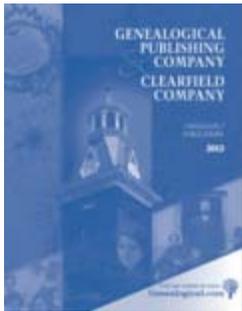
Orderly books include rosters, instructions relating to troop movements, camp regulations, reprimands, promotions, and findings of courts martial. A 1778 orderly book from Providence Headquarters details the results of three courts martial where one man was pardoned for falling asleep at his post; another sentenced "to be shot to death" for "stealing, insolence, disturbing the camp," and additional violent actions; and a third was "to be whipped one hundred lashes on his naked Back" for stealing a rifle.

"Oaths of Allegiance, Fidelity, and of Office" are in volumes numbered 165-168. There we find the Oath of Allegiance of Abraham Rand, in which he declares he owes "no allegiance or obedience to George the Third King of Great Britain" and will "defend the said United States against the said King George Third." It is followed later by Rand's Oath of Office, in which he swears to "faithfully, truly and impartially execute the Office of Sub Conductor of Waggons."

Within a 1779 list of military requisitions, we learn that fifes were delivered to one brigade, sheepskin and lead aprons to another, while Artillery Artificers received a bolt of duck cloth and a pound of twine. Other items seen frequently within the supply accounts include drum sticks, muskets, belts, and bayonets.

More information and examples are available within Fold3's description of this title. Documents discovered in the "Numbered Record Books" round out stories and fill in gaps. They are overlooked evidence, underappreciated records, and hidden tales from our nation's history. They now await your discovery.

Posted by Dick Eastman on January 18, 2012 in Online Sites | Permalink

Genealogical Publishing Company Catalog Online (January 20, 2012)

In my drive to get paper out of my life, I noticed that one of my favorite vendors makes their catalog available online. Genealogical Publishing Company, affectionately known as "GPC," offers the company's latest catalog at:

http://www.genealogical.com/upload_images/GPCCatalog.pdf

http://www.genealogical.com/content/products_catalog.html

I don't know if GPC still offers the catalog on paper or not. I suspect they do. After all, it IS a publishing company, right? However, I prefer the electronic version. Hold the paper please.

Posted by Dick Eastman on January 20, 2012 in Books **|** 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 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, March 3, 2012. The program for the morning is titled **"A Brief History of Germans in Poland and Russia"**. The speaker for the morning will be Walter Marzinke.

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

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.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, March 21, 2012. The program scheduled for that evening is **"Breaking Down a Brick Wall: A Case Study in Unlocking My Irish Ancestry How I Found the Marriage Record of My Irish Great-Great Grandparents"**. The speaker for the program will be Nancy Thomas.

Learn how listening to family stories can lead you from known facts to the unknown. Newspapers, census records, church records, online indexes, and maps resulted in the breaking down of a major brick wall. This presentation will show the step-by-step process and analysis used to tackle Irish research successfully.

Nancy Thomas is currently President of the DuPage County (IL) Genealogical Society. A retired Professor/Reference Librarian at the College of DuPage, Nancy has been searching for her ancestors and her husband's for over 30 years. She published The Roeser Family: Ancestors and Descendants for a family reunion using Family Tree Maker software. Nancy has enjoyed travelling to her ancestral homes in Ireland, England, and Germany, as well as other parts of the world. She is especially interested in pre-fire Chicago history.

Also be aware the society is having its Annual Conference on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at the Hilton Garden in St. Charles, Illinois. The Conference Program Title is "Tracking Your Ancestors' Footsteps". This is an all-day program. This is the 37th Annual Conference of the DuPage County Genealogical Society to be held in its history. Walk-ins are welcome at the last minute. There is usually an un-discounted charge for the conference as a walk-in. You also may not be guaranteed a lunch but there are plenty of restaurants in the very nearby area if you were unable to obtain a lunch from the society. Take advantage of any pre-registration you can do with the material at the website and avoid the uncertainties of not getting a lunch if you walk-in unregistered.

Details for this special Annual Conference can be found at the society's web page listed below. Just look for the link at the top of the first page you encounter that says "Conferences". Click on that link and you will gain access to all of the information concerning this upcoming conference.

You may visit the society's web page at:

www.dcgs.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/

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Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois (CAGGNI)

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, February 18, 2012 at (To Be Announced) at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"They Weren't All Gangsters! Roaring Wheels of Change ... 1920s in Chicago"**. The speaker for the program will be Donna Primas.

Get a glimpse of what life was like in Chicago (and the US) as society transitioned from the turn-of-the-century's old ways into the "modern" era of the 1920s. While gangsters were shooting up the town (if you believe the many films and TV shows), many important things were happening in society that affected your ancestors. Learn about the role of Prohibition, how women got the right to vote and the dramatic new fashions that

appeared. Listen to some Jazz that was all the rage. See images of some Art Deco structures built in this era that broke with past traditions. Discover how the popularity and low cost of Henry Ford's cars assembly line manufacturing contributed 1920s society.

Chicago Tour Guide and amateur historian Donna Primas will share insights into the way things were, assisted by her genealogist sister, Caron Primas Brennan, who will provide family photos and stories as evidence of the impact of this roaring decade.

You may visit the organization web page at:

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 December 8, 2011, and December 14, 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

Two New Search Results Features on Mocavo, the Genealogy Search Engine (December 29, 2011)

The following announcement was written by Mocavo.com:

 Today we're excited to announce a subtle, yet significant improvement to your genealogy search results, for both free and paid users. Now when you run a search on Mocavo.com as a free registered user, you'll see two new options under each of your results:

The first of these is the "I've Read This" button, allowing you to mark off which results you've investigated, letting them stand out from the ones you've yet to read. When you click on a link in Mocavo, it automatically sets it to "I've Read This".

The second is the ability to rate those pages you've already read through with four options: "The Person I'm Looking For", "Maybe A Good Match", "Not Who I'm Looking For" and "Broken Link." This will allow you go to back and re-reference the pages you've been through, at a glance, to see whether or not they were helpful in your research.

These features are now live for Basic and Plus users alike, so go give them a try and let us know what you think. Happy searching!

Posted by Dick Eastman on December 29, 2011 in Online Sites | Permalink

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WikiTree Becomes Invitation-Only (January 18, 2012)

I have written several times about WikiTree, the online genealogy wiki. You can see the past articles that explain the service if you start at http://goo.gl/OvRYq. Now owner Chris Whitten has announced a major change to the site:

 WikiTree.com has closed new user registration. New members must now be invited by current WikiTree members.

WikiTree is committed to being 100% free. Rather than limiting what members can do or charging them for access, we've decided to slow down the addition of new members. This does not affect the accessibility of public profiles. Our mission is to create a single family tree that will make genealogy free and easy for everyone. However, the ability to create profiles and limit them with Privacy Levels and Trusted Lists is something that only members can do.

Current members can invite an unlimited number of family members and fellow genealogists. They can also continue to import and export GEDCOMs, add unlimited photos, and enjoy all the other free services for members.

Chris Whitten, the creator of WikiTree, explains the policy change like this: "We're devoted to growing a single family tree that will make genealogy free and easy for everyone. Charging for access to the tree, let alone charging community members who are creating the tree, is anathema to our vision.

"The problem is that we've had users abusing our wide range of free services and treating the site like their personal back-up service. Not only does this drain our limited resources, it hurts other community members and what we're trying to accomplish. By making membership strictly invitation-only, we can give our community some breathing room to clean up the genealogical messes that irresponsible users have left behind, and we can be more careful about making sure that future members embrace our vision and understand our Wiki Genealogist Honor Code."

Posted by Dick Eastman on January 18, 2012 in Online Sites | Permalink

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PERIODICAL NEWS

National Genealogical Society Quarterly

We have received the Volume 99, No. 4, December 2011 issue of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly.

Key articles in this journal are:

"Using Indirect Evidence and Linguistic Analysis to Trace Polin Ries of New Orleans"
> by Teri D. Tillman, CG

"Nathan W. Dowd of Ohio: Whose Child Was He?"
> By Linda Dowd Vivian

"Using Indirect Evidence to Find In-Laws for Conrad Peters of Monroe County, New York"
> By Nancy A. Peters, CG

"French Spoliation Awards: Heirs of Seth Russell of New Bedford, Massachusetts"
> By George Ely Russell, CG, FASG, FNGS

"The Usefulness of School Records: Uncovering Roberta Dyer Howard's Withheld Story"
> By Mary L. Mall

"'Toute le Monde' Revisited: The William Moyse Family in Saint John, New Brunswick"
> By Ronald A. Hill, Ph.D, CG, FASG

In this issue you will also find a summary of all of the article titles that appeared during 2011. In addition to the summary of articles, you will also find a complete index to all articles published in 2011. The National Genealogical Society makes this feature available in the publication to facilitate cross-referencing to all of the articles that appeared in the 2011 publication year. This is a quick way to make a fast search to find something you may be looking for in 2011 articles or just find some good information unexpectedly.

This journal is one to take a look at just to see the very detailed and documented articles that are published. You will often see very quickly that the supporting documentation of endnotes or footnotes is often time larger in print space than the article itself. This is the standard for articles to be published in this journal. Your own documentation of your discoveries should always occur in such detail so that your research can always be re-traced and proven out by any future family members that will inherit your work. It is also simply the correct thing to do.

The articles are often very "niched" as a very specific topic. So the average genealogy researcher may not feel they will benefit by reading the article because there is not an obvious "How To" approach being written by the author. But if you try reading an article, you will see copious amounts of "problem-solving" efforts in the article that you can take in account to solve your own research problems.

Give an article a try! Stick with one from beginning to end. You will walk away with some problem-solving aspect of research that you can apply to your own research difficulties.

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

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No 2nd Journal Received This Month To Review

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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 November 29, 2011 and December 6, 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

A Review of the VuPoint Solutions Magic Wand Scanner (December 26, 2011)

I have written several times about the VuPoint Solutions Magic Wand. I find it to be a great tool for genealogists who wish to make digital images of documents and photocopies. This tiny scanner is handheld and powered by batteries. No computer is required to create scanned images that are then stored on a microSD memory card. While the scanner normally sells for $100 or so, may online retailers have offered it at lower prices in recent months.

You can read my earlier articles about the VuPoint Solutions Magic Wand Scanner if you start at http://goo.gl/IR4db

Now PCmag.com has published its own review of the VuPoint Solutions Magic Wand Scanner. Articles on PCmag.com typically are read by hundreds of thousands of computer enthusiasts so I expect the publicity generated will result in increased sales.

The review by M. David Stone is generally favorable. He compares it to the PlanOn DocuPen Xtreme X05 that sells for $369.99 and finds that the VuPoint device does most everything that its much more expensive competitor can do. Stone writes, "It has little to no learning curve, it's easy to use, and its scan quality is up to the task."

You can read M. David Stone's review at http://goo.gl/mrAbG

Posted by Dick Eastman on December 26, 2011 in Hardware **|** Permalink

Genealogy Apps for Tablet Computers (January 16, 2012)

A newsletter reader sent an email message asking a very good question. I decided to share the answer with everyone who reads this newsletter. He asked:

I am thinking of purchasing a tablet, and I wonder what genealogy apps are available for tablets. I use two genealogy programs, Legacy and Family Tree Maker. Do you know if either of these programs would be viewable on a tablet? Because of their costs, I am leaning towards either a Nook Tablet or a Kindle Fire, but I am not sure if either of these would permit me to download my information and use it in a library, Family History Center, etc. What do you think?

I will give you two answers: one shorter one and one longer one.
The short answer is:

Neither of those tablets will run any genealogy applications unless you "jailbreak" them to run the full Android operating system. That procedure has several drawbacks, including the loss of warranty.

The only tablet that is useful for genealogy programs without modification is the Apple iPad or possibly one of the more full-featured and expensive tablet computers that run the Android operating system.

The longer answer is:

The Kindle Fire and the Nook Tablet both are aimed at the book/video game/movie download market, not at the computer tablet market. Both of them are capable of running programs, although with some limitations. Neither of them is as powerful as the full-featured Android and iPad iOS handheld computers. They are optimized as ebook readers.

Neither Legacy nor Family Tree Maker have versions that will run on the Nook Tablet or the Kindle Fire nor on any other Android or iOS tablet computers. However, most tablet computers do have web browsers. If you are within range of a wireless network connection, you can access a web-based genealogy application. However, my guess is that most tablet computer owners will not be happy with that solution. None of the web-based genealogy programs look very good on a 7-inch screen.

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With both the Nook Tablet and the Kindle Fire and with almost all other tablet computers, you can use your present desktop or laptop genealogy program to create "electronic printouts" as PDF files, copy those files to the tablet, and then "use it in a library, Family History Center, etc." In theory, that wil do the job. Again, my suspicion is that most genealogists won't be happy with the results. Looking at PDF files isn't nearly as satisfying as running a true interactive program when at the library or at a Family History Center.

Both the Nook Tablet and the Kindle Fire run modified versions of the Android Operation System. In both cases, the producers of those tablets have blocked access to the normal Android App Store. You can only download programs from the Nook App Store or from the Kindle Fire App Store respectively. The last time I looked, neither of those App stores had any full-featured genealogy programs available although I do expect that to change eventually.

NOTE: The Kindle Fire does have several applications that deal with genealogy, but none of them are full-featured programs that store your family database in the Kindle Fire and allow you to access it when at a library or archive. Some of them do provide access to online databases stored on the web, however. You can see the latest list of available genealogy "applets" for the Kindle Fire at http://goo.gl/8Sc9T. Again, all of them are small "uilities" or programs designed to access online databases. None of them are complete, free-standing genealogy programs.

Both the Nook Tablet and the Kindle Fire can be "hacked" in such a manner that the specialized versions of Android operating system are replaced by generic Android. Once that is done, the tablets will be able to access the normal Android App store and install true genealogy programs, such as Family Bee or GedStar Pro.

The drawbacks of "hacking" include the probable loss of the warranty from the manufacturer and also the technical skill required may be beyond the capabilities of some owners. The technical skill required will vary, depending upon the method of hacking selected.

I was able to hack the Nook easily by purchasing a new microSD memory chip with the Android operating system pre-loaded, inserting the chip into the Nook's external memory slot, and rebooting. The process was simple. I suspect that anyone can do that. The Nook then ran the generic version of Android and I was able to download and install a genealogy app from the Android App store. However, I soon discovered that the Nook runs a lot slower when running from a plug-in memory chip than it does when running from internal memory. It was so slow that I eventually removed the microSD memory chip, re-booted, and returned to normal Nook operation that did not include a genealogy application.

Another method of loading Android apps into a "locked down" system such as the Nook or the Kindle Fire is to "sideload" them. I haven't tried this myself. After reading the description of sideloading, I believe that some technical skill is required although you don't need to be a guru. If you are interested in sideloading, I'd suggest you start by reading the article and watching the video on AndroidCentral at http://www.androidcentral.com/sideload-android-apps-all-you-want-sideload-wonder-machine

In my mind, modifying or hacking a device of any sort always includes some drawbacks. I'd suggest the better, simpler, and more effective method is to purchase a tablet computer or cell phone that is designed to have all sorts of third-party programs

installed, including genealogy apps. Admittedly, this is usually a more expensive solution.

At this time, the leading handheld candidates for using genealogy apps are the Dell Streak tablet, Samsung Galaxy Tab, the T-Mobile SpringBoard with Google tablet, the ASUS Eee Pad Transformer, the T-Mobile SpringBoard, the Apple iPad for Apple's iOS operating system, and a wide variety of "smartphones" (cell phones that include complete computers). All of these run the Android operating systems except for the devices made by Apple. The Apple products use Apple's iOS operating system. If you search online, you can find many more Android tablets although most of them are lesser-known devices.

The Apple iPad is by far the most popular tablet computer. In fact, Apple sells more iPads than all the other tablet manufacturers combined. This popularity is reflected when comparing genealogy apps in the Apple iPad App store versus those in the Android App store: the iPad also has many more genealogy apps than does the Android operating system. You can read more about the iPad apps in my recent "Genealogy Programs for the iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad" at http://goo.gl/GmH7d.

I am not aware of any genealogy applications for Blackberry or other tablet operating systems.

In short, anyone who wants to use a full-featured genealogy program on a tablet computer needs to purchase an Apple iPad (which has many genealogy programs available) or one of the "leading handheld candidates" listed earlier that run Android (and will then be limited to only two or three genealogy programs). However, none of these choices can match the low prices of the Nook Tablet or of a Kindle Fire.

I own an Apple iPad, a Nook, and a Kindle Fire. Of the three, my preference is the Apple iPad. It is very popular, has hundreds of thousands of applications available, including a dozen or so genealogy applications, and is very reliable. As stated in the Apple ads, "it just works." However, the iPad is by far the most expensive solution.

Of course, all of these more powerful tablet computers also have many, many uses besides genealogy. I'd suggest you evaluate **ALL** your needs before making a purchase decision.

Posted by Dick Eastman on January 16, 2012 in Software | Permalink

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FUNNY BONE

More "unusual" gravestone pictures for your enjoyment!

I found these at the following web site with very little detailed description about the picture itself! Take a look at these and more at:

http://www.google.com/search?q=unusual+gravestones+pictures&hl=en&prmd=imvns&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=wk0UT8v7NceFsALD__DuAw&sqi=2&ved=0CF0QsAQ&biw=1024&bih=566

(Above) Cars Sure Are Incredibly Detailed, Large and Probably Very, Very Expensive

(Above) That Is A Clothes Pin! I Sure Wish I Knew the History of This Deceased Person!

(Above) Another Car, Not Just <u>A</u> Car, A Mercedes!

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Feb 14   Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.

TUE 2012	130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 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 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. (Check CAGGNI website for meeting location. Meeting locations have Occurred at other locations than Schaumburg Library main location.) 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** or P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567
Feb 25 SAT 2012	DuPage County Genealogical Society. Saturday, February 25, 2012. 8:00 AM Refreshments. Programs begin at 9:00 AM. DuPage County Genealogical Society Annual Conference. Guest speakers. Society website at www.dcgs.org. Society blog at http://dupagecountygenealogicalsociety.wordpress.com/ DuPage County History Museum website at www.dupageco.org/museum
Mar 3 SAT 2012	Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists. Saturday, March 3, 2012. "**A Brief History of Germans in Poland and Russia**". 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
Mar 10 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. (Check CAGGNI website for meeting location. Meeting locations have Occurred at other locations than Schaumburg Library main location.) Topic for the meeting "**Second Saturday Workshop Series ─ Technology Basics for Genealogists**" Presented by Skip Bieber Further information at: **www.caggni.org** or P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567
Mar 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. **Break Out Sessions/Small Group Discussions**.

Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.
Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com

Mar 17 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. (Check CAGGNI website for meeting location. Meeting locations have Occurred at other locations than Schaumburg Library main location.) Topic for the meeting "**What's New in Technology**" Presented by Ed Rosenthal Further information at: **www.caggni.org** or P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567
Mar 21 WED 2012	DuPage County Genealogical Society. Wednesday, March 21, 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 "**Breaking Down a Brick Wall: A Case Study in Unlocking My Irish Ancestry**". Guest speaker is Nancy Thomas. Society website at www.dcgs.org. Society blog at http://dupagecountygenealogicalsociety.wordpress.com/ DuPage County History Museum website at 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
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 (Check CAGGNI website for meeting location. Meeting locations have Occurred at other locations than Schaumburg Library main location.) Topic for the meeting "**Second Saturday Workshop Series — Local Resources**" Presented by To Be Determined Further information at: **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.dcgs.org. Society blog at http://dupagecountygenealogicalsociety.wordpress.com/ DuPage County History Museum website at 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. (Check CAGGNI website for meeting location. Meeting locations have Occurred at other locations than Schaumburg Library main location.) Topic for the meeting "**Setting Up Your Family History Website**" Presented by Panel of CAGGNI Members Further information at: **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
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.dcgs.org. Society blog at http://dupagecountygenealogicalsociety.wordpress.com/ DuPage County History Museum website at www.dupageco.org/museum
May 19 SAT	CAGG-NI. Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois. Meetings held the 3rd Saturday of each month at Schaumburg Township District

2012	Library. 130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL. 10:30 AM. (Check CAGGNI website for meeting location. Meeting locations have Occurred at other locations than Schaumburg Library main location.) Topic for the meeting "**Mining the Census Records**" Presented by Steve Szabados Further information at: **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**. Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390. Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com
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. (Check CAGGNI website for meeting location. Meeting locations have Occurred at other locations than Schaumburg Library main location.) Topic for the meeting "**Deep Ancestry: Beyond the Paper Trail**" Presented by Michelle Wilson Further information at: **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. (Check CAGGNI website for meeting location. Meeting locations have Occurred at other locations than Schaumburg Library main location.) Topic for the meeting "**What's New At Family Search**" Presented by Susan Anderson Further information at: **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 TUE 2013	Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting. 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. Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com
Feb 12 TUE 2013	Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting. 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. Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com
Mar 12 TUE 2013	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

Apr 9
TUE
2013

Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.
"Program to Be Determined"
Presented by To Be Determined.
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May 14
TUE
2013

Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.
"Program to Be Determined"
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Jun 11
TUE
2013

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.
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Jul 9
TUE
2013

Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.
"Program to Be Determined"
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Aug 13
TUE
2013

Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.
"Program to Be Determined"
Presented by To Be Determined.
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Sep 10
TUE
2013

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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Oct 8
TUE
2013

Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Group Meeting.
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.
"Program to Be Determined"
Presented by To Be Determined.
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Nov 12
TUE
2013

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Dec 10
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2013

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2/6/2012