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

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our April 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 MAY 5, 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, May 5, 2012. The program for the morning is titled **"Finding Online Newspapers"**. The speaker for the morning will be Sarah A. V. Kirby.

When you cross an aerospace engineer (a.k.a. rocket scientist) with a teacher, librarian, and genealogist, you get a wide range of knowledge and a depth of experience rarely equaled. Sarah uses this to your advantage to present her topics in everyday language with enthusiasm and excellence. Sarah has been researching her family since 1994 and has had a surname website since 1997. After obtaining her MLIS (Masters in Library and Information Science) in 2003, she began moving towards professional genealogy. She is currently a member of APG, NGS, the Genealogical Speakers Guild, and several other local and regional societies. Miss Kirby has been on the APG's Publications Advisory Committee since early 2007.

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 APRIL 18, 2012

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, April 18, 2012. The program scheduled for that evening is **“Genealogy Trips – More Than Just Records”**. The speaker for the program will be Jeffrey Bockman.

You cannot resolve five to twenty years' worth of genealogy questions within a two week research trip. Even if you could, this type of a trip would not be considered a vacation. Learn to use the Internet, planning, humor, common sense, and making important contacts to plan your trip. Obtaining records is great but meeting cousins, seeing the old family home, standing where they grew up, learning about the places they lived or spent time, and seeing what they wrote about lets you really learn more your ancestors. Examples will be shown from two trips that I made visiting my paternal grandmother's village in Slovenia and the town where my maternal grandfather was stationed in France during WWI.

Jeffrey Bockman is a Genealogy Lecturer & Writer. He was a contributing editor for the former Everton's Genealogical Helper and a feature writer for the former Heritage Quest Magazine. His articles have also appeared in various other publications. **He was the President of the DuPage County Genealogical Society for 5 terms. He is the author of *Give Your Family A Gift That Money Can't Buy*, a book that encourages people to record and preserve their family's history. See www.JeffBockman.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.dcgs.org

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON APRIL 21, 2012; EARLIER START TIME FOR THIS PROGRAM THAN NORMAL AND ALSO MEETS AT ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, April 21, 2012 at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library at 10:00 AM. **(Please note this is a different location than normal and an earlier start time)** The program scheduled for this day is **"Setting Up Your Family History Website"**. The speakers for the program will be a panel of CAGGNI members.

Ever wondered how mere mortals setup such extensive family history websites? Wonder no more! Our panel, composed completely of CAGGNI's own members, share the secrets behind their amazing websites.

Get introduced to the secrets of Second Site, PhpGedView, TNG, and other systems that are the power behind these websites.

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 MAY 8, 2012**

The Genealogy program will be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 7:30 PM in the 2nd floor Classroom. The guest speaker for the evening will be Kathryn Barrett. Kathryn will present a program titled "**Military Service Records**".

Kathryn Barrett is a genealogy researcher, teacher and lecturer at the local, regional and national level using her 38 years of genealogy experience. Kathryn has been a volunteer at the National Archives & Records Administration (NARA) at the Great Lakes Regional Center for more than 18 years.

Kathryn is a professional member of the National Genealogical Society (NGS), the Federation of Genealogical Society (FGS), and the Wisconsin State Historical Society. The recipients of Kathryn's presentations include various genealogical societies, libraries, conferences and other special interest groups. Kathryn has recently organized a local homeowner association genealogical group and makes monthly presentations on a wide variety of genealogical topics.

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 – ELLIS ISLAND PICTURES BEFORE IT BECAME A TOURIST ATTRACTION

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated March 9, 2012.

Ellis Island was closed in 1954 and remained abandoned for years before being resurrected as a tourist attraction and memorial to America's immigrants. The Mail Online has published an eerie series of photographs showing what Ellis Island looked like during those years of neglect.

The photos make it obvious that arrival at the immigration gateway was not a joyous occasion for every immigrant. Illness was common. Some immigrants were sent back to the "old country," including young children who were returned without being accompanied by an adult. Then there is the morgue and the mortuary building where autopsies were performed.

You can see the haunting images of America's immigration gateway at

<http://goo.gl/FL6qq>

My thanks to Michael Murphy for telling me about these pictures.

Comments by Tony Kierna

I do encourage you to take a look at the vast amount of pictures of this national immigration shrine before it became known as an immigration symbol for our country. It really is amazing at how large-scale destruction and simple maintenance deterioration took place in about a 50 year period after 1954! When you see these pictures you just wonder how 200 year old buildings survived so well when such devastation seems to have taken place at Ellis Island over a relatively short period of about 50 years after it was closed. And remember, the devastation took place on an island where you would not expect any amount of daily foot traffic to occur to speed-up the devastation.

Ellis Island does mean so much to so many of us. It is a real blessing that it was seen as a national historic site to be saved and brought back to its glory days as an immigration hub. Many of our own ancestors passed through on this island on their way to build new lives in the United States. We are the result of their having entered through Ellis Island.

It was almost a complete self-contained city on its own island in New York harbor. Doctors, social workers, translators, food preparers and more were all there to help our ancestors get off to a good start in their early days in the United States. But many were not allowed to make the final connection to New York and be on their way. They may have been held back due to illness. Their transition may have short-lived while they recuperated and were allowed to proceed. Some were so ill that they were simply not allowed entry and were sent back home to their country of origin. Some may have just barely made it to our shores and then passed away on the island. How sad to be so close and yet so far.

The pictures are truly haunting in many respects. These pictures portray more what it may have been really like except for the actual rubble you see from the picture. Original paint and wall structures remain as they were then back over 100 years ago in many cases.

We are so lucky that this immigration icon was saved for all us to always remember that so many of our ancestors came here through this processing center.

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Handout #7 – ENGRAVE FAMILY TREES ON METAL PLAQUES

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated March 21, 2012.

I have written often about the risks of storing information on paper. Paper is fragile and is susceptible to deterioration as the years pass. Information that is printed on paper will deteriorate and disappear after a period of time. Even acid-free paper is vulnerable to moisture, mold, tearing and fire. Digitizing images solves some of these problems but also introduces new concerns.

Now one company, Progeny Software, has a new solution: a family tree, preserved forever on a metal plate, will be available centuries from now to tell the story of the family. Centuries? This strikes me as an excellent method of preserving family tree information.

Progeny Software is a well-known company in the genealogy marketplace. You can read my many past articles about Progeny Software if you start at <http://goo.gl/u4zWW>. Now the company's newest service allows you to upload a family tree to the company's web site, indicate the root or subject of the tree, select a size and material, select a chart style, and Progeny Software will do the rest. A number of chart styles are available. If you don't have a computerized file of your family tree, you can manually enter the names in an online form. The company will create Ancestor or Descendant trees, as you wish. Prices start at \$44.25 plus shipping. Custom sizes are available upon request.

This is a nifty service!

You can learn more at <http://treeng.com/>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

This truly does seem like an ingenious idea. It is sort of like hitting yourself on the side of the head and saying "Gee, I could have had a V-8!!". Great ideas are there all around us all of the time but still not visible.

One thing is solved immediately. You will never be at a loss for a device to "read" this family tree! There will be no format changes from CD to DVD to worry about. There will be no problems on how does my family member "upload" the data when the two systems are incompatible. It will not mould or fray as cloth might do. Paper deterioration is already stated above in the Dick Eastman article. In a way, I also like the idea that it cannot be folded and create crease lines that are also the bane of documents over time where they begin to deteriorate and rip.

There is one major drawback. You cannot update this very readily if you need to make a simple change. Just discovered the ancestor's birth year is off by two years from what you now have cast in metal? Sorry, just tell the anecdotal story that goes with the history of the plaque or paste a yellow stick'em note on the plaque!! Hopefully, there are also no sharp edges on this family history object. Can you hear that story of the future? I just gave it to him to hold. He moved it around, nicked

his finger, got blood poisoning and died and that cost me another \$97 to add his name onto the plaque!!

The website indicates you can order the material in brass or aluminum. You can have anywhere from 4 generations to 7. For a fully loaded 7 generational plaque on aluminum or brass that is 18 inches by 9 inches in size, expect to pay about \$97. The smaller size plaques are about 3 inches by 6 inches with 4 generations cost about \$42.

In a funny way this sort of reminds me of some plaque we have on one of our early planetary spaceships that is still out there moving through the universe. It depicts all things related to human kind in picture format just like this lineage chart on metal represents to us on all things related to our families.

It really does sound like a great idea, all kidding aside.

Check out the web site in the above blog post by Dick Eastman.

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Handout #8 – ROOTSTECH VIDEOS NOW ONLINE

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated March 7, 2012.

If you were unable to attend RootsTech a few weeks ago, or if you were there but were unable to attend all the sessions you wished, you can now watch and listen to recordings of many of the sessions.

NOTE: Not all the sessions were recorded, depending upon the wishes of the presenters and of the availability of hardware and video crews. However, many of the sessions were recorded.

You can find the recorded RootsTech sessions at:

<http://rootstech.org/#video-player>

Comments by Tony Kierna

I am a big believer in online training and learning sessions wherever you can find them and on whatever topics that pertain directly or indirectly to your own research.

RootsTech is becoming the "happening" event in the world of genealogy. This has been only the 2nd one that has happened. In 2011 there were 3,000 registered attendees from both the world of technology and those that are genealogy researchers, like you and me. I hear that attendance for the recently held 2012 Conference approached 4,000. Those are really big numbers!

I believe for 2011 there some smatterings of recorded videos that were made available for viewing. Now, there appear to be at least 18 videos available now, 13 directly from RootsTech and 5 directly available through FamilySearch. It appears there are 2 more in the soon to be released stage. That is a total of 20 from the 2012 program versus maybe 6 from 2011 (I do wish I could have found the 2011 videos from the RootsTech site, but I could not find them. They are still as valuable to look at as are the new ones.)

These videos are all about 1 hour in length on a myriad of topics. So get comfortable. Have a cup of coffee while sitting in your cushy chair. Enjoy the videos from 2012.

I even made a blog post to our library genealogy blog about this topic. Here is what I said about the RootsTech videos in my blog post dated March 19, 2012 after the separator line below:

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You know I am a big believer in online training sessions to further educate yourself as a genealogy researcher.

I am happy to announce that online video sessions from the recently held 2012 RootsTech conference that was held in Salt Lake City, Utah are now available from the RootsTech web site. There are 18 videos available in total for you to play through.

If you cannot attend these large-scale conferences, then it is a great pleasure to be able to see online a smattering of the programs that were held. By no means is what is made available online representative of the total amount of overall programs presented over three days, but it is sure great to see a good amount of the material.

You will find the following topics and the presenter from the online videos from the recently held conference at RootsTech:

- *"Inventing the Future As A Community"* by Jay Verkler
- *"Do I Trust the Cloud?"* by D. Joshua Taylor
- *"Effective Database Search Techniques"* by Kory Meyerink
- *"Twitter, It's Not Just What I Had for Breakfast Anymore"* by Thomas MacEntee
- *"Eleven Layers of Online Searches"* by Barbara Renick
- *"Exabyte Social Clouds and Other Monstrosities"* by Josh Coates
- *"Publish Your Genealogy Online"* by Laura Prescott
- *"Optimizing Your Site for Search Engines"* by Robert Gardener
- *"Genealogists 'Go Mobile'"* by Sandra Crowley
- *"Google's Toolbar and Genealogy"* by David Barney
- *"Making the Most of Technology to Further the Family History Industry"* by Tim Sullivan
- *"Genealogy Podcasts and Blogs 101"* by Lisa Louise Cooke
- *"Privacy in A Collaborative Environment"* by Noah Tutak

There are 5 more additional videos for your viewing pleasure that were presented by FamilySearch presenters.

In addition, the website has announced that two more videos will be released at a near-term future date. That means there is an incredible 20 presentations in all that will be made available at the RootsTech website that were captured from the recently held 2012 RootsTech Conference.

You can see programs themselves directly at the RootsTech website at:

[2012 RootsTech Annual Conference Online Videos](#)

Spend some time and really enjoy these and come away even more motivated. Each video may be at least 1 hour in length.

Sometimes it is good to take a step back and take a look at the "big picture". The above programs seem to do that very thing. It is important to know what is ahead for us down our genealogical research paths. What are the "new" things that will make our research faster, easier, intuitive, collaborative, more accurate, and with fewer errors.

I always get a good feeling about the RootsTech Annual Conference. I have not gone to either of the first two they have had. I still feel very connected through their site and these fabulous videos that are educational and inspirational!

I am very happy to say the new set of videos are at your fingertips via the RootsTech website indicated at the above link.

Tony Kierna
Genealogy Coordinator
Schaumburg Township District Library

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Handout #9 – BILLIONGRAVES AND COUNTING

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the March/April 2012, Volume 16, Number 4 issue of Family Chronicle.

As we start entering another spring season, I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “BillionGraves and Counting” by Lynn Cassity. Spring and summer bring out the opportunity for us to return to on-site cemetery research. Now is the time to read up on articles that can get us going in the direction of cemetery research.

Hopefully, you are aware of another “cemetery” site called FindAGrave.com. This site requires you to register yourself with the site. You can then enter in gravestone information either directly or from spreadsheets. You can also upload pictures of the gravestones. You can provide a good deal of alternative information about the person for whom you may have entered in the information. FindAGrave is a great depository of information you provide via typing or uploading.

What is BillionGraves.com and how is it different from FindAGrave?

The immediate difference in BillionGraves.com is the need to have a smartphone and a BillionGraves.com “app” in your repertoire of gadgets.

The researcher can then use the smartphone with the app and walk about a cemetery taking pictures of the gravestones. The pictures are then transferred to BillionGraves along with a GPS coordinate that is calculated from the app in use when the user saves the image. The images received at BillionGraves.com are then made available to volunteers to actually transcribe the information from the gravestone into a database that is then searchable. So in essence each gravestone is photographed and then associated with a GPS location to permanently identification the location of the gravesite of the individual.

Data can be searched at BillionGraves.com by visiting the website at www.billiongraves.com. I actually tried it out for a few names to search and lo and behold my mysterious Omaha, Nebraska connection came up when a person by the name of “Juliana Kierna b. 1840 d. 1918” came up with a picture of the gravestone and the cemetery name and picture of where she is laid to rest. One more thing on my “Bucket” list to do.

The author of this article included a very detailed step-by-step description of what she had to do at the cemetery with her iPhone to capture and upload the data she was photographing. It seems like the “app” does the bulk of the work. Like anything else, once you successfully upload an image, it becomes a piece of cake after that.

The whole key with this website participation is the requirement to have a smartphone as well as to download the free BillionGraves app. If you want to, for an additional \$2.99 you can also purchase an app through BillionGraves.com that will allow you to use your smart phone to search the website from your smartphone.

I would recommend visiting and trying the search on the BillionGraves.com website at www.billiongraves.com. Just like me, you may find an ancestor unexpectedly to add to your own bucket list. It appears that you do not have to be in the field taking the photos. You can also participate by transcribing the gravestones into a database from the photos taken by other researchers.

This site and the activities are a work in progress. More and more data is being added to the site. Think about using your smartphone to walk the grounds of a local cemetery. Get that cemetery added to the list they have as well as add gravestone photographs you take. Don't assume your cemetery of interest is in their database. I did a lookup for St. Adalbert Cemetery of Niles, Illinois and did not find it in their database. This is one of the largest Polish cemeteries in the Chicagoland area. This is the one where just about all of my ancestors are buried. So it sure looks like this cemetery is sure ripe for getting into their database with images of the gravestones.

This was a good article that sure opened up my eyes to another thing that today's smartphones can do. Any smartphone with iOS or Android will work as long as you download the free basic app from BillionGraves.com. Spring and summer are just around the corner. Get out to the cemetery of your choice with your smartphone. Join in with BillionGraves.com and you may discover a name in their database that originated from someone taking a picture that matches to my own personal areas of research interest.

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Handout #10 – SETING UP YOUR GENEALOGY BUDGET

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the March/April 2012, Volume 16, Number 4 issue of Family Chronicle.

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled “Setting Up Your Genealogy Budget”. The author of this article is Jacky Gamble. The direction of this article is that “free is good” until it comes time to realize that a genealogist has to invest some money in order to make their research more successful or to make themselves a better researcher. On what things does a genealogist invest their hard-earned money? The author points out the following items to invest your genealogy money.

In order to keep informed on learning new research skills and becoming aware of new resources, the author notes that we need to consider investing our money in Conferences, Workshops and Institutes. National, state and local genealogical societies often sponsor learning workshops through large-scale conferences or small-scale conferences. These are the opportunities for researchers to take advantage and learn new skills. These conferences often have top notch genealogical speakers that provide new knowledge and often motivation to the researcher. Researchers also get the opportunity to intermingle with other researchers and pick up additional “bonus” knowledge from others in attendance. These conferences can last multiple days but the researcher can select all of the days to participate or just one day. You have a lot of flexibility to pick and choose what suits your learning needs.

The author also points out that the researcher should invest money in developing their own library of books and journals that can also advance the skills of the researcher. If you are focused on a specific ethnic area of research, then by all means add materials on the subject to your own private library. You will often refer to this material frequently, so why not have the copies of the material right at your fingertips. Journals are the resource for the researcher to keep current with activities and developments in genealogy. Many genealogy journals can now be subscribed to online so your reading material is available to you on your computer, pad or smartphone. Genealogy journals are the best place to get new tips and make yourself a better researcher by reading the current articles on the subject connected to your own research.

The author also notes that a good investment of our money is to subscribe to online databases where records are made available at our fingertips. Many subscribable websites provide “trial” subscriptions so you can get a better feel just how useful the data they have is helpful to your own research. Some data is available on a “pay as you go” method. Your upfront costs are often reduced because you only purchase what your researches return as promising. If you subscribe, be sure to verify that you won’t automatically be subscribed to the service when you may not want to.

The researcher may also incur costs to do research at various repositories. You will incur travel, lodging and food costs if you go for an extended research trip away

from home. You may also encounter fees themselves to use the repository as well as potentially incurring copying costs for material you find.

The author also notes that you may have costs from a genealogy budget to participate as a member in various societies. Find an ethnic society and join it. You will be connected to a society that focuses on your area of research as well as have the capability to interact with other like-minded members. These societies often have members available to ask for help as well as often receiving genealogical journals put together by the society on the top of interest to you. Joining a society in the locale of your ancestors' lives is also a good bet even if it is far from your home. You will gain access to material that may apply to your ancestors and an expertise of knowledge far from home.

Consider investing in a computer if you do not have one. Computers are really the main entryway to tap into online records today. Consider investing in some good lineage software on your computer to enter all aspects of your research. You should also consider investing in other technology items like a good scanner for you to scan documents and items as well as a good digital camera for the pictures you will want to take both of people and documents that you can then share electronically.

As the author points out, while free is good, some money investments will also pay off big time in aiding your research. Don't get trapped in only utilizing "free" resources. Budget your dollars wisely and invest effectively so your research progresses. Everything you need is not available free. But if you do not wisely invest, you will be your own worst enemy and limit your research progress.

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