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## May 8, 2012 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our May 8, 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](http://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](http://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 SEPTEMBER 1, 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 3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAY EVENING OF MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER AND JANUARY-MAY AT THE FOREST VIEW EDUCATIONAL CENTER IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS. INSTEAD, THE SOCIETY WILL BE MEETING ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH STARTING AT 10:00 AM AT THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SENIOR CENTER LOCATED AT 1801 WEST CENTRAL ROAD IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS. THERE IS A 30 MINUTE ROUND-TABLE HELP SESSION THAT STARTS AT 9:30 AM PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL PROGRAM.**

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists will take place on Saturday morning, September 1, 2012. The program for the morning is titled **"To Be Determined"**. The speaker for the morning will be To Be Determined.

**THE SOCIETY WILL NOT BE MEETING DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2012. THEY WILL RE-GATHER AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER 2012. I WILL PROVIDE UPDATES ABOUT THE PROGRAM IN SEPTEMBER AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE**

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

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**Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT SOCIETY PROGRAM ON MAY 16, 2012**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, May 16, 2012. The program scheduled for that evening is **“From Land Records To Google Earth – Mapping Your Family’s Place”**. The speaker for the program will be Jane Haldeman.

There are numerous sources that give our ancestor’s legal land description; where are they and what do they mean? Learn where to look and how to convert section and range into Google Earth to see how that property looks today.

Jane Haldeman is a genealogical lecturer with over 20 years of research experience. She received a BA in Theater from the University of Iowa and is the Design and Technical Editor of the Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly journal. She is President of the Fox Valley Genealogical Society (Naperville, IL) and has been a board member since 2001. Jane Haldeman and Janice Fritsch are owners of “It’s Relative” ([www.itsrelative.net](http://www.itsrelative.net)); a genealogical service business providing lectures, workshops, research and consultations.

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](http://www.dcgs.org)

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**Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON MAY 19, 2012 AT THE GAIL BORDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY IN ELGIN, IL**

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, May 19, 2012 at the Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin, IL from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The program scheduled for this day is **"Mining Census Records"**. The speaker for the program will be Steve Szabados.

Census records are used extensively by genealogy researchers to add ancestors to their family trees. This session will look beyond the first couple of columns and review the wealth of information that can be found in the US census records. It will discuss ways that you can garner each morsel of information from these records.

The presentation will also discuss ways to deal with missing information in head-of-household only census records for 1790 through 1840 and give you ways that may help you identify which records belong to your family.

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](http://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 JUNE 12, 2012

We will have another “break-out” session for our gathering in June 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 June 2012.

You may visit the library's web page at:

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

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

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

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## Handout #6 – HOW MANY 1940 CENSUS RECORDS HAVE BEEN INDEXED?

**The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated April 15, 2012.**

Most genealogists know that the 1940 U.S. census images have been released and are now available to everyone. However, these are images only. The indexes will be added "real soon now." Several organizations, including FamilySearch, are busy with indexing efforts.

Of course, the real question is: "When will my the state I am interested in be finished?" Nobody can tell you the exact date but you can obtain a status report of the efforts at FamilySearch.org.

Go to <https://www.familysearch.org/1940census/> and move your mouse over the state that you are interested in. A pop-up will appear showing you the percentage of records that have been indexed so far by FamilySearch.

Some states show zero per cent. One state, Kansas, shows 98%!

My thanks to Judy Crook for telling me about this interesting new infographic.

### **Comments by Tony Kierna**

*So you want to know how your state(s) of interest line up with being indexed for the the just recently released 1940 Census? Then just take a look at the above link and look to see where your state of interest stands with regards to being indexed.*

*The LDS is providing a very nice tool to monitor the progress of the indexing effort for the 1940 Census. Believe it or not, some states are already 100% indexed (Kansas, Colorado, Delaware). Some states have barely moved the needle to show any progress (New York 1%, New Jersey 2%). I am not sure I understand the logic from the LDS on why some states have been completed so fast (maybe smaller populations?) while others are just creeping along (maybe larger populations?).*

*Illinois, by the way, is indicated as being 7% indexed as of this writing on April 23, 2012.*

*I think there is also some confusion on what is meant by "100% Indexed". To me it would mean volunteers have already reviewed the data and transcribed the information into Excel-like spreadsheets so that the data can be name-searched. We are all anxious for this method of research rather than initially just using the images and searching for your ancestors in a manual process using their geographically known areas.*

*When I go look at the LDS site and look for the 1940 Census Data Base, it does show that there appear to be 79,701 records that are now name searchable. If you click on the link for the database it takes you to the general 1940 Census site for the LDS where the progress for each state is show in terms of percent completed for*

*indexing. But I do not see where you would actually enter in your surname of interest to search the 79,701 records.*

*My only answer right now is that you need to hover over each of the states and the progress will be shown. If it only shows that images are available, then you cannot name search it. Right now (as of April 23, 2012) when I hover the cursor over Delaware it does indicate these are searchable by name. You can then search for your Delaware ancestors within this database.*

*So for me it seems like "trial and error". Hover over the state of interest to you. If it says "search" then do so. Somehow I would think you could enter in the surname within a search box and it will find for you what matches from what is currently available to search rather than you hovering over the state and then discovering that state is searchable. As of today, I am not seeing any other method to search other than you discovering on a state-by-state basis what is available to search.*

*I still think that is better than nothing but it does seem awkward in having you uncover what stated is searchable rather than you just enter a name in a search box and it will go through the names from whatever states are available!*

*So give the LDS link above a look-see and see where your state of interest ranks in being indexed on a percentage basis. If you have Delaware ancestors, then you can name-search that particular database.*

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## Handout #7 – GENEALOGY TOURISM

*The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated April 16, 2012.*

Genealogists spend millions of dollars every year traveling to visit the lands of their ancestors as well as to major genealogy centers in Salt Lake City, Utah; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Washington, DC; Houston, Texas; Boston, Massachusetts; England; Ireland; Scotland; Israel; and elsewhere. Genealogists spend money on hotels, restaurants, gasoline purchases, and, oh yes, photocopying fees. However, many state tourism organizations seem to ignore this potential source of wealth.

**NOTE:** One major exception is the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department website at [www.TravelOK.com/genealogy](http://www.TravelOK.com/genealogy), which assists visitors seeking to connect with their ancestry. You can learn more about Oklahoma's success in my earlier article at <http://goo.gl/akqqE>.

Genealogy tourism has always been popular but the recent surge in genealogy-related television programs has further expanded the popularity.

Wikipedia even contains an article about genealogy tourism at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genealogy\\_tourism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genealogy_tourism) that says (in part):

Genealogy tourism is a worldwide industry, although it is more prominent in countries that have experienced mass emigration at some time in history and thus have a large worldwide Diaspora community. For example, genealogy tourism has been prominent in Ireland for some time. Recorded genealogy tourism peaked in the year 2000 as 116,000 genealogical visitors traveled to the island. The Irish Tourist Board ceased recording genealogy visitors numbers from 2004, and its present levels are now unknown. Now the genealogy tourism is very popular to countries of Central Europe where the World War II caused mass migrations of population. Particular Jewish genealogy tourism is very popular and on the rise.

Quoting the BBC web site at <http://www.bbc.com/travel/feature/20120404-a-trip-back-to-your-roots>:

Genealogy tourism -- combining a trip away with a trip down memory lane -- is one of the fastest growing travel sectors, according to University of Illinois research. One million people, for example, visit Scotland each year, motivated by their ancestral activities and generating £730 million for the economy, according to tourism authority [VisitScotland](http://www.visitScotland.com).

Another interesting article can be found on the Burnett Thorne web site at [http://www.burnettthorneculturaltourism.com/genealogy\\_tourism.html](http://www.burnettthorneculturaltourism.com/genealogy_tourism.html).

One bit of advice: don't go visit your ancestral homeland(s) unprepared. Many people have simply shown up in the country of ancestral origin and then tried to find information about ancestors, sometimes without even knowing the names or birthplaces involved. Almost everyone has failed to find much information this way. Instead, before you book a flight, spend some time talking to older relatives and

then research your roots on sites like Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org or Genes Reunited.

Look further at records in the places your ancestors emigrated to in order to learn more about their lives in "the new country" and to obtain further clues about their origins. Find as much as you can about names, death and marriage certificates, immigration and electoral rolls, as well as towns of origin. You will then be far better prepared when you land in "the old country."

### **Comments by Tony Kierna**

*Does it surprise you that genealogy is so popular today? I certainly believe that with the advent of the Internet in the last 15 years our search for our ancestral connections has become so much easier. We are finding out much about our ancestors today faster than ever simply because the data is now so much at our fingertips. With such quick access to good data, our interests are always rising because we are getting good results quicker thus keeping our general interests alive. Often when we hit the "brickwall" our interests wane as things become harder to discover.*

*The genealogy TV shows certainly help fuel the genealogy tourism industry. When we watch these shows what do we generally see as part of the show. We see the "star" get some information from someone else that did the work. More importantly, we see the "star" get on the airplane and head off to the overseas destination from which the ancestors originated. We then see more helpful people provide further information to the "star" about their ancestors. Then we hear a lot of "oohs" and "aahs". When we see and feel the emotions exhibited by the "star" we realize we can do that same research trip. And then we see the birth of the "genealogy tourism" industry to facilitate us satisfying our quest of discovery of where we came from.*

*In my own Polish research I have seen more and more advertisements that pertain to taking a trip to Poland to discover your ancestral connection. Polish entrepreneurs have seen the opportunities that exist. Researchers and travel agents and guides band together in Poland and start their own genealogy tourism business looking for Americans like myself who want to experience where their ancestors came from in Poland. I have read about many American Poles who made the trip to Poland and cannot say enough good about their experience. It really must be a great feeling to book a trip, hook up with a local researcher, guide and translator in Poland and not only discover and explore the locations of your ancestors from Poland but also have the opportunity to connect with descendants and families in Poland itself and share the emotional experience of "family".*

*As the article from Dick Eastman indicates, there has been great success with Irish ancestral tours and Scottish tours.*

*I also agree heartily with the assessment from Dick Eastman. If you aspire to go on a genealogy tour to the country of your ancestors **YOU MUST BE PREPARED!** You do not want to use the trip as your first effort of research. That preparation must be done far in advance of even considering a trip overseas. With access to data here you must put together your research and make your discoveries here. You need to be prepared with your research material to make a genealogy tour enjoyable and*

*productive. Do not think that facilities are open there as they are here. Archives may have much more limited hours with far more draconian rules to use than here. You may always face the language barrier issue so a translator is a must. Just like with the LDS here, you may visit an archive thinking you are going to go gangbusters on research and then discover the material you need is not at the archive but an off-site warehouse that needs to be retrieved. The retrieval may take two days but then your schedule on your trip only allowed for one day at this particular archive. Again, the word is preparation.*

*All the things we see in popular culture media about genealogy just whets our appetite more and more to make that ultimate trip to our ancestral home. Businesses and entrepreneurs sense this desire and are constantly developed methods for you to fulfill your wish. Consider this dream yourself.*

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## Handout #8 – DEKALB COUNTY, ILLINOIS NOW HAS 90,000 VITAL RECORDS ONLINE

**The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated April 7, 2012.**

DeKalb County Clerk and Recorder John Acardo launched his office's genealogy website with 90,000 vital records online. The records consist of birth, death and marriage records that are older than 75, 20 and 50 years, respectively.

Acardo noted that the new web site opens a new revenue stream for the county. Acardo expects the increase in sales of vital records to pay for the cost of the website within 18 months.

Visitors can search for vital records and view the search results, which include a person's name and date the record was filed with the county, at no cost. Visitors may download copies of the records for \$15, the same price as picking up documents at the clerk's office.

You can find the DeKalb County, Illinois, vital records web site at

<http://www.dekalbgenealogy.com>

### **Comments by Tony Kierna**

*This is good news that a local county is now getting into the online business of making vital records accessible to researchers. Many of us may have connections to this county for which are only choice up to now was to visit the county seat in Sycamore, IL or make use of whatever film or archival material exists. My wife's ancestors have a connection to DeKalb County so this access will now more easily facilitate some of my research.*

*Birth (1914-1936, 13,148 records available), marriage (1889-1961, 14,379 records available) and death (1870-1991, 40,870 records available) records are available within limited time ranges. Birth records that are at least 75 years old are available. Marriage records that are at least 50 years old are available. Death records that are at least 20 years old are available. New records will be added as they meet the criteria for inclusion. So you will need to visit the site as needed to discover ancestral information that has been added.*

*The article above did not mention it but the website for DeKalb County also notes that Naturalization records are also available. The site notes that for Naturalization records, they must be at least 100 years old. There are 22,521 Naturalization records available.*

*It does appear that this site sets itself up in a manner similar to the Cook County, Illinois site. You will need to register yourself with the site at no cost and then login to gain access. Without being registered my search attempt did not produce any results. It went directly to the registration part of the site.*

*The site also provides a nice "Help" section that describes software browsers that are needed, opening up the zipped files and re-downloading previously purchased data. I do not think it is complicated but this may give that appearance.*

*The cost to obtain the data is \$15. That seems to be the going rate among many counties that charge for this service. If you have ancestral connections to DeKalb County, Illinois but did want to make the trip out there to retrieve data then you now have this great opportunity to tap into their online available data. Register yourself with them for free and give the searches a try.*

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## Handout #9 – TOP 10 WEBSITES FOR POLISH RESEARCH

*The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the April/May 2012, Volume 7, Number 1 issue of Internet Genealogy.*

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I thought that a very good article in this issue is ne titled "Top 10 Websites for Researching Your Polish Ancestors!" The author of the article is Donna J. Pointkouski. I have to acknowledge that the selection of this article does relate to my own research bias. My ancestry is Polish so that when I saw this article I knew I had to share this with all of you, especially all of the other Polish researchers.

This article presents a classic case in which a skilled researcher thinks they are familiar with many good resources related to their area of research. Then one sees an article like this and comes to the conclusion that there are still so many resources waiting to be discovered. I openly admit that of the 10 resources identified by the author for Polish research, I was familiar with 7 of them but had no idea of the other 3! A researcher has to be plugged into all things to keep informed on resources that exist to help the research effort.

What are these top ten resources for Polish research? The author has identified the following Internet online resources for the Polish researcher to tap into:

- **PolandGenWeb** @ [www.rootsweb.com/~polwgv/polandgen.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~polwgv/polandgen.html)
- **PolishRoots** @ [www.polishroots.com](http://www.polishroots.com)
- **Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA)** @ [www.pgsa.org](http://www.pgsa.org)
- **Jewish Gen: The Home of Jewish Genealogy** @ [www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org)
- **Genealogy and Poland: A Guide** @ <http://donhoward.net/genpoland>
- **The State Archives of Poland** @ [www.archiwa.gov.pl/en/state-archives.html](http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/en/state-archives.html)
- **Ksiegi Parafialne** @ [www.ksiegi-parafialne.pl](http://www.ksiegi-parafialne.pl)
- **Geneteka** @ <http://geneteka.genealodzy.pl/index.php?op=se>
- **BASIA** @ <http://basia.famula.pl>
- **Poznan Project** @ <http://bindweed.man.poznan.pl/posen/search.php>

Most of the sites are in English. Some are Polish sites viewable in English. Some are pure Polish sites that one can still use by just knowing a few key Polish Internet words. These are the "plus and minus" items the researcher needs to understand when accessing sites that may be in a language unfamiliar to the researcher. There

may still be great data that can advance your research. It just means you will have to work through the language barriers to discover your ancestor's data.

The author does a very good job in providing a great deal of background information on each of the above mentioned resources. I would direct the reader to read the article in its entirety to obtain all of the background material on these sites.

The three sites I was not familiar with were Ksiegi Parafialne, Geneteka and BASIA.

Ksiegi Parafialne means "parish books". This site is a great index of indexes site. The site is in Polish and is not that difficult for non-Polish speakers to use. The site lists by town which records have been indexed and where they can be found. How good is that! You can use drop-down menus at the site to find provinces associated with the town you find.

Geneteka is quickly becoming the site with the largest number of indexed records. It appears to be developing as an aggregator site, obtaining records from other sites all contained under its own site. There are about 7 million records indexed at this site. Many of the found indexed records actually provide a link to view the original document in question.

BASIA stands for Baza Systemu Indeksacji Archiwalnej or Archival Database Indexing System. The site was developed by the Wielkopolska Genealogical Society in cooperation with the state archives in Poznan. This page is available in English. Your search will return locations on a map. You can click on the locational information to find the record in question.

This is a great article written by Donna Pointkouski intended for Polish researchers. I highly recommend accessing the full text of this article and to make a copy of it to keep by your computer to access the websites mentioned. I thought I knew a lot about the Polish resources, but this article opened me up to an additional three more resources for me to learn.

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## Handout #10 – USING PERSI TO FIND YOUR ANCESTORS (PERIODICAL SOURCE INDEX)

*The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the April/May 2012, Volume 7, Number 1 issue of Internet Genealogy.*

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Another good article in this issue is one titled "Using PERSI To Find Your Ancestor!". The author of the article is Gena Philibert-Ortega. All genealogical researchers should know aboutn this great resource. PERSI stands for Periodical Source Index. This great resource is compiled by the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. It is a resource consisting of about 2.25 million (that's correct, million) articles contained in about 11,000 different genealogical journals.

This wonderful resource is available through Ancestry.com and HeritageQuest. To access this resource in Ancestry.com go to their home page, click on the "Search" tab, click on "Card Catalog" and then choose "References, Dictionaries, and Almanacs. Scroll down and find PERSI listed as PERiodical Source Index. Heritage Quest is a subscribable database available generally from libraries. Individuals cannot subscribe to Heritage Quest directly. Just look for PERSI from the main page of Heritage Quest. Check with your local public library. It should be readily available from your local public library. The good thing about this database through your library is that it is generally available to the user from home just by inputting in your library card number to authorizer you access.

Some of the 2.25 million articles could consist of transcriptions, name lists, how-tos, methodology articles, area histories and interviews. Some of the journals contained in PERSI include genealogical society newsletters. So you may often be able to connect to articles originating from these societies that tie into the area of research you are doing.

You can search PERSI by locality, surname or keyword. Articles are indexed by keywords in the article titled and not by an all-word index of words in the articles. Articles listing cemetery transcriptions will be indexed under the locality not by the individuals named in the article.

The locality search will produce histories of towns and cities, cemetery transcriptions, directories or pioneer family histories. Use city and town names as well as county names.

Just like with any online search be careful of the number of keywords you use. Start with a few and then add on as needed so you can see what you are seeing being returned. Too many keywords too early will limit your results and cause you to possibly miss some good articles.

One drawback for now about PERSI is that it is NOT an all-word index. When you are returned a good hit of an article that looks promising, you will have to request a copy of the full-article. You can submit your article request directly back to the Allen

County Public Library by downloading the request form. You can find this request form at:

[http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/database/graphics/order\\_form.html](http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/database/graphics/order_form.html)

The cost to order articles is \$7.50 per order. You can order 6 articles using the PDF form. You will also be charged \$.20 per page for copying. Expect to receive your ordered articles in about 6 to 8 weeks. You will need to know the name of the article, title of the journal, volume number, month and year of the journal, all of which you will find on your successful results from your hits on PERSI.

If you have never used PERSI, it is important that you at least give it a try and see what you can discover. There is valuable information contained within PERSI just waiting to be discovered by your search.

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

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