



HANDOUTS TABLE OF CONTENTS July 10, 2012

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

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our July 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 SEPTEMBER 8, 2012

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, September 8, 2012. The program for the morning is titled **"To Be Determined"**. The speaker for the morning will be To Be Determined. (Please note that this particular meeting is **NOT** on the 1st Saturday of the month for September due to the Labor Day holiday.)

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

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Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT SOCIETY PROGRAM ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2012

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

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, September 19, 2012. The program scheduled for that evening is **“To Be Determined”**. The speaker for the program will be To Be Determined.

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.dcg.org

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON JULY 21, 2012 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, July 21, 2012 at the Schaumburg Township District Library from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The program scheduled for this day is **"Cyber Sleuthing Your Family Tree"**. The speaker for the program will be Tina Beaird.

Learn what's new in the online genealogy community. This session will be packed with tips for finding information and searching subscription databases and free genealogy websites. Come join us!

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 AUGUST 14, 2012**

The Genealogy program will be held on Tuesday, August 14, 2012 at 7:30 PM in the 2nd floor Classroom. The guest speaker for the evening will be Mike Karsen. Mike will present a program titled **"Liven Up Your Family History with Images"**.

Family histories can contain phenomenal research with every event documented and sourced with precision but yet no one is interested in reading it. Because they need to be more than just text, they need to be vehicles for "Time Travel" taking us back to the days when our grandparents and great-grandparents lived and raised their families. We need images to bring them to life. This presentation illustrates how to "liven up" your family history with images of people, places, and events that will make the reader keep flipping the pages to be drawn back in time.

A professional speaker, Mike Karsen is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), the Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG), and is currently President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois. He speaks on family legacy topics locally and nationally, presents conference programs and is on the faculty of Newberry Library and Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies in Chicago. Mike is the author of the JewishGen website "Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Chicagoland" and has published articles on genealogy.

He holds an undergraduate degree in mathematics/computer science and a master's in operations research alongside 30 years in telecommunications management.

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 – DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ!

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated June 22, 2012.

Experienced genealogists know that even original records contain errors. I found a perfect example of that today.

The 1940 Census records for the State of Maine has now been indexed and is available online. I had previously searched most of the towns where my relatives lived in Maine by looking at the unindexed images and simply turning the pages manually. Most of my relatives lived in small towns in 1940, so finding them wasn't too difficult.

The one exception was my parents: they lived in a larger town that filled about 200 pages of hand-written records. Since I believe I already know all the information to be found about my parents and my two older siblings who were alive in 1940, I was in no rush to look at those records. Thanks to the new indexes, I had a chance to find the records today and was surprised to find my brother listed by the census taker (enumerator) as a 6-year-old **DAUGHTER** of my parents! Yes, that's an error in the original record, not the index.

I am sure my brother wouldn't be too pleased. He was as macho a man as I ever met, an outdoorsman and a true "man's man." He is now deceased, so I won't have an opportunity to tell him about being listed as a girl. However, I can tell you and I will also ask you to pass on the word to all new genealogists: even the original records can be wrong.

A second problem is the spelling of my sister's name. It is correct in the original, handwritten census records but the indexers mis-spelled her first name. At least that is a modern error, not a problem with the original record.

Comments by Tony Kierna

The joys of trying to figure out why our searching efforts don't find what we expect. As Dick Eastman's personal experience indicates, mistakes can be made in both the original census tabulation of data or can be made by those volunteers trying to do their best to transcribe the data so it can be indexed for faster searching.

Dick follows the same approach as I have done. If I am familiar with my ancestral family members from previous research, I may not immediately start looking for them because my effort may not provide me with any new or earth-shattering discoveries.

*However, at some point you do want to investigate the data to see both what the census taker actually entered onto the ledger sheets of census **AND** to see what your actual search criteria produced on any or all of the fields of the census data. This will allow you to review and compare the actual census original data to the effort made when the image was transcribed.*

For Dick's family he discovered one of each of the errors. The census taker mis-identified a male ancestor as a female on the original schedule **AND** a transcriber incorrectly spelled a female ancestor's first name incorrectly.

If you are searching an index always consider the above possibilities as a reason why you may not be finding what you expect. Always start with the least amount of search terms in your search and then keep adding variables that are allowed for searching the particular data. If SEX of the person is one of the criteria you use, then you may not discover a MALE ancestor that may have been improperly identified in the original data as a FEMALE. If you are using the FIRST NAME of an ancestor as a search term, you may not discover the person in an indexed search because their name may have been incorrectly entered in by the original census taker or incorrectly indexed by a transcriber. So always search from the more general to the more specific, adding search terms along the way rather than all at once on your first search.

Also by looking at the actual data image compared to the indexed search results, you may discover that you have the opportunity to make corrections to the results, especially if the error is a transcription error. Check to see if the database allows you to make submissions for correction. So if an ancestor's first name is TEOFIL in the original census ledger but it appears indexed as TOPOL then by all means see if you can submit a correction.

Census takers and transcribers do the best that they can. It is only when you as a knowledgeable descendant see these errors that you may be able to offer your ability to correct the error.

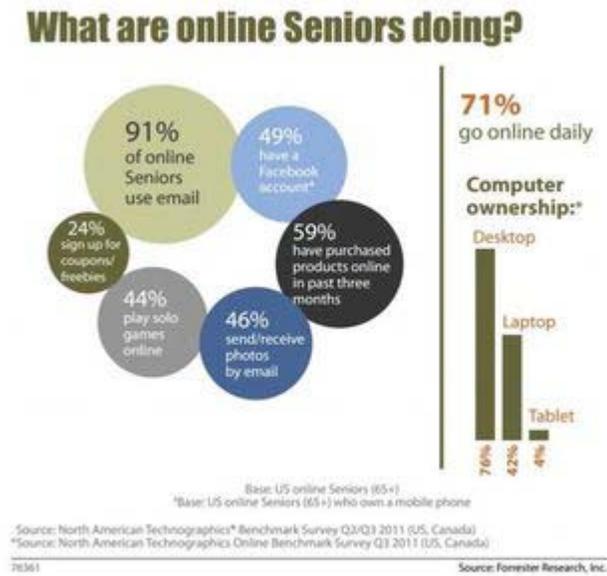
The message here is to always look at the original image of your ancestor's record to see exactly how it compares to the transcribed database record.

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Handout #7 – SENIOR CITIZENS ARE MORE TECH-SAVVY THAN YOU THINK

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

I suspect this applies to a lot of readers of this newsletter:



According to a new report by analyst firm Forrester Research, seniors ages 65 and up are probably more connected and tech-savvy than you think. Forrester found that about 60% of U.S. seniors are online. That's about 20 million people and while this obviously means that 40% don't care much about the Internet, those 60% who are online are tech-savvy and happily use technology to connect to their friends and family.

Details may be found at <http://goo.gl/A8hXq>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

You may want to click on the embedded link in the above Dick Eastman blog post to get to a larger, and more readable, view of the above statistical results. Additional statistics for other measurable categories are also included there.

I would have to concur that genealogists who are senior citizens are in fact incredibly tech-savvy. I see them all the time. I talk to them all the time. I share e-mails with them all the time.

If the above statistic that indicates 60% of seniors are online, then I would have to say anecdotally that about 95% of the genealogists that are seniors that I interact with are online and then some!

Genealogists that are seniors, please take a bow. You are an incredibly informed group of tech savvy researchers. You know that the bulk of your research needs are

in many forms online. In order to access that wonderful data you have become skilled in computer knowledge, internet knowledge, search engines, web sites and the like in order to access this rich data for your family history research.

I will even take it a step farther. Genealogists that are seniors are skilled in hands on use of libraries, archives and repositories AND the electronic tools to find materials in these organizations. They are skilled in the technical skills to take their years of research and convert it to printed book material or even online family trees under their own web sites.

Seniors are also skilled in online shopping in order to acquire the things that help them pursue to genealogical research efforts. A purchase of a book here, a subscription to an online genealogical service there all come into play to show that genealogists that are seniors have a vast amount of tech savvy knowledge.

And yet the statistical study above indicates that while 60% of seniors are online, surprisingly 40% are not online. If you want to be or are a genealogist in that 40% category, alas, your research efforts are going to be difficult at best, less efficient, more time costly and less effective. I feel very bad when a senior may approach me for genealogy help who indicates they have no computer or online skills. I often feel I have very little help I can offer other to say they may have to do much of their research as research was done 20 years ago, by phone calls, letters, and the Post Office. I often have to suggest that perhaps they can pair themselves up with a child or grandchild that is computer savvy to accomplish the research. That may not be a bad alternative in the long run as it can certainly make family research more of a bonding experience. But having the skills yourself is still a valuable ability to have.

Sometimes I suggest that they make an effort to become tech savvy. They can take computer training courses that are often provided by libraries intended exactly for seniors. But sometimes I see that they rationalize that computer skills are not what they want. Instead they want genealogical results. In today's world the two are in conflict. You really need computer, online skills today in order to pursue your family history research.

Congratulations to the seniors that I work with. You are at the top of the pecking order developing and honing your tech savvy skills. You are a testament to the pursuit of learning and education and keeping up with the times. Your research efforts are and will continue to be rewarded by keeping up to speed with technological advances in general and specific to genealogical research.

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Handout #8 – NEW VIRTUAL PIN MAP INTRODUCES GENEALOGY PIN

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated June 5, 2012.

The following announcement was written by Uencounter.me:



Philadelphia, PA -- June 05, 2012 --

While travel naturally lends itself to the use of a pin map, the team at uencounter.me recognizes the interest and benefit that comes from having the ability to visualize ancestry migration on a map. Users who conduct Genealogy research for their families can now pin locations where family members have been born, lived, worked, and died in addition to marking other major milestones in a family's lineage.

"We are starting with a straightforward format by simply adding a new 'type' of pin to our basic platform and will add features and/or tweak options once we see how people are using the pin", states Leslyn Kantner, CEO and one of the co-founders. Kantner explains that they use feedback from users to enhance the experience on the site and base many of their revisions on specific requests from users. "We noticed that our users are utilizing uencounter.me to map things other than their personal travels, so we reached out to them and asked a series of questions about what they would like to see". A number of responses indicated a desire to be able to specifically mark family migration and visualize it on a map.

As users begin to build their Ancestry maps and mark locations of historical importance, uencounter.me will become another tool in the Genealogy research market. Each time that a pin is placed on a map, surrounding or nearby pins are presented to the user. "The mapping platform at uencounter.me is founded on a concept of serendipitous discovery" adds Kantner, "as our user base builds, people may find information about relatives in their own ancestry line by seeing a nearby pin from another user".

The site launched in November and is slowly accumulating users, many of whom have been mapping personal travel. "Travel is just only one of the many uses for a virtual pin map" suggests Kantner "and we are excited to introduce ideas that help users think of innovative ways to benefit from the map".

Uencounter.me uses a Google map platform and it offers the ability to scroll in close on specific map positions, allowing users to place pins in exact locations. "I was able to add a pin to the map that literally marked the gravesite of my grandmother and then added notes to the pin that are relevant to her death" offers

Kantner. "I am then able to add photos and share the information via email or Facebook with other family members. While it does take some time, it is a wonderful visual representation of history for my family".

About: Uencounter.me is a virtual pin map that is social! It was born from an innate curiosity of the interwoven universe in which we reside; the serendipitous nature of our lives, a life time of memories, and a desire to see it in a visual format. CEO Leslyn Kantner coupled a great idea with a lifetime of entrepreneurial spirit and developed a dynamic team to develop and build what is now the only geo-location web application that emphasizes 'people'.

Comments by Tony Kierna

The above service offered by uencounter appears to be a very interesting free service that genealogists can utilize to mark global areas where there ancestors came from or where living relatives live today. I guess the trend is developing for company names to now appear as un-capitalized names which is why you see the name of the company the way it is. I don't think this is such a good idea, but it is not my company or my call!

Visit the web site from the above links. You can create a free account and start your marking of global spots connected to you. You can also browse the spot on the web site titled "Explore the Encounter Map". Here you can see a world map that you can zoom in to finer layers of detail to find the more specific "pins" associated with a very particular place.

You are presented with a world-wide map that may be full of "pins". These pins are at such a high level that you really do not know the town name they represent. You will need to zoom in the area of interest where a pin exists. One thing I would recommend you do when zooming in on a map is to zoom in by increments using the "+" or the "-" symbol rather than the slider bar and zooming in a lot in one spot. You will become disoriented and will not know where you are on the map in relation to where you wanted to go. Rather, just keep clicking on the "+" sign to zoom and this will allow you to keep focused on the area you want to zoom into until you start seeing.

I tried the "Explore the Encounter Map" and wanted to see what the pins represented in the Missouri area. I saw a pin in the area of east central Missouri that I wanted to see more details. When the pin was isolated enough to select you can select it at that point. Clicking on that pin you will notice that the example shows this pin used as a "genealogy" identifier. A card is associated with this pin that had the following template of information that can be left"

Hermann, MO

June 14, 2012

Who was/is here: Ancestors

Relates To: An Ancestor

There are other categories that can be identified such as "Work", "Client/Customer". In fact it appears this site was created to identify more Travel, Work, Client sites and has just been modified to add in the category for "Genealogy".

At the bottom of this card is a link that allows the registered user to insert more information. The link is titled "View Discussion/Photos and Share". Here is where more details and photos can be added by the registered user. This also affords someone who is just perusing geographical areas to discover something you left as a genealogical trail to discover your connection to the area.

It appears that an unregistered user can find your material and read what you may have left and see any pictures. However, it appears that the person finding your information can not respond to what you have left until they become a registered user of uencounter. This is still not bad because you often want to just become visible to be discovered.

One awkward process I discovered seems to be that if you find a pin on the map and you click on it and then click on the link at the bottom to view messages or photos, it appears that you have no way to return to the previous screen. If you click on the "back" button of the browser it returns you to the global map and not the more zoomed in map you just left. It seems like you should be able to "x" out of the text and photo card to return to where you were.

This looks like it could a very useful tool for genealogy researchers to leave trails of ancestral connections on the map to be discovered by other genealogy researchers. You can leave more detailed text descriptions and registered users can carry on a thread of messages and leave photos.

You may want to check this service out for yourself. It looks like it has possibilities that incorporates maps, messages, photos and threaded messages. Leaving "pins" of geographic connections does make it easier to see areas of origin and migration paths.

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Handout #9 – TARGETED RESEARCH PLANS

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the April – June 2012, Volume 38, Number 2 issue of NGS Magazine.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “Targeted Research Plans”. The author of the article is Patricia Walls Stamm, CG, CGL. I think the article can help us to re-focus our research efforts rather than allowing us to just “meander” along an unguided research path.

I am as guilty as the next genealogical researcher. An idea strikes me based on some random thought and soon I am embarking down an undisciplined path of further research. I may get half-way down that path only to think of another idea, abandon the first effort and go down another path. By the end of my thought process and physical effort, do I really have anything more to show for my efforts? Many times, not. This is why we have to give ourselves guidance and an organized path to follow to solve our research dilemmas.

So what exactly is a research plan? According to the author consider the following:

- Set Goals
- Review Information
- Establish Objectives
- Select Documents and Location
- Research
- Analyze and Incorporate Information
- Re-Examine the Plan

Think of a goal as the purpose of our research. According to the author, “a goal needs focus with a clear, understandable, and explicit statement”. You can have a vague goal; A broad goal; or a more focused goal. Do not be too vague. Having a goal of finding all of the (Surname A) may send you down a path of uncertainty. Focusing a goal down to a more specific level like “Finding the parents of Person A” is more concrete offering better chances of success.

Review your material. If you just accumulate and do not review you stand the chance of not discovering new links on relationships to the material you have. You may have answers to your research dilemmas right in your own folders of information on the people you are researching. You just have not made the connections because you simply did not know you had the connections without

reviewing the data every so often. By reviewing we also can establish data that is missing and still needs to be researched.

Establish an objective after doing your review. Perhaps your review indicated a marriage occurred in 1895 for a family that was still intact in 1900. Establish an objective to search for the marriage record as well as to review the 1900 census to see how the family changed between 1895 and 1900. I would even go a step farther and establish an objective that brings in a target date for you to accomplish the objective. If you don't provide a time interval to yourself it may stay open permanently.

What document can provide you with the missing information? Maybe we have done the obvious such as finding a death certificate to establish a death date. Maybe civil documents were not established by the state or the county at the time. Think of alternative documents outside of the obvious ones to resolve your problem.

Now you need to do your research. It is a well thought out inquiry into and study of various facts. Don't forget to document what are things you have looked at in your quest. Make note of these items, where you looked and your results because you will undoubtedly go through and repeat needlessly again at some point in the future as your persons being researched increases in numbers.

Analyze and incorporate your information in a meaningful way. Look at **ALL** of the information on any document you have. Have a marriage record. Maybe all you captured was the information on the bride and groom. How about the parent's information for the bride and groom? How about the witnesses' names to the marriage? How about where the marriage took place? How about who officiated at the marriage? There can be so much more on any one document we look at that provides so much more information for us to catapult further research.

At the end we need to re-examine the plan in its entirety. It all boils down to the question of "Did we solve our dilemma?" If we honestly met our goal, move on to the next one. Or are there still further questions? Review, review and review!

A plan will give us the focus we need. Stop your meandering routes research that is ineffective and will not accomplish our goals. Being disciplined in research with a clear-cut targeted research plan just makes our time spent more effective and productive. Break the bad habit of unfocused research.

I recommend reading the entirety of this article to absorb all of the good parts provided on the author to create your own personal targeted research plan.

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Handout #10 – THE 1940 CENSUS

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the April – June 2012, Volume 38, Number 2 issue of NGS Magazine.

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled "The 1940 Census". The authors of this article are Constance Potter and Diane Petro. The article provides some background material on the 1940 Census in general but in particular provides information on new pieces of information that were captured during this event. The researcher should be aware of this new data and be aware it exists to help further in their research.

The obvious rage at the moment for genealogists is the just released 1940 census that was made available online in April 2012. Census data is released after a 72 year interval in the United States. Thus, the 1940 Census has been released after fulfilling that time interval when the data is private. Previously, census data was released via microfilms. Researchers had to go through laborious processes that were labor intensive to research the data in this format. This is the first Census release in which the images of the census pages were immediately released as digitized images available for free via the Internet. Volunteers throughout the country are in the process of transcribing the data into a format that will allow for indexing by surname and many other data fields once completed. The population in 1940 was approximately 132 million people.

The authors noted that respondents to the Census were asked thirteen questions on employment. This was important because the United States was still in the throes of an economic slowdown following the Great Depression that started in 1929. Don't overlook these responses from your ancestors.

The authors also noted that the 1940 Census asked supplemental questions for only two people on pre-selected lines of the census questionnaire. Do not overlook these supplemental responses. They may be from your own ancestors.

Also noted is the fact that the Enumeration Districts for the 1940 Census were smaller in size than previously. The average Enumeration District (ED) equates to about 50 to 60 ledger pages. So once you determine an ED of an ancestor, your quest of looking for the details should be found quicker because the data is smaller in overall size within the ED.

Here are some of the highlighted pieces of data the genealogical researcher should review:

- **Column 7** – This is actually the Name field where a person's name is identified within the census. Look in this column for a "circled x". The census taker was to note who provided the information for the family unit by making this mark next to this person's name in this column.

Now you can blame "Aunt Mary" for giving you information that your own research may show to be inaccurate.

- **Column 14 – This is the Education – Highest Grade of School Completed question.** This is the first time the census asked for the highest grade completed. Now you will have a good insight into how much education your ancestor received. **Children will probably reflect a higher amount of education than even their parents.**
- **Column 16: Citizenship of the Foreign Born?** This is an additional question than occurred in previous censuses. **It takes into account American citizens that may have been born abroad or at sea.** This can provide the researcher with some interesting pieces of information for those unusual citizenship inquiries that may apply to your own ancestor.
- **Column 17 – 20: In What Place Did This Person Live on April 1, 1935?** What a great way to look at responses on where people were 5 years previously. **This question acts like a mid-term state census question** that was often asked in between Federal decennial censuses. The Census Bureau indicated that about 80% of respondents noted they lived in the same place 5 years previously. But now for the other 20%, you will now have another geographic location noted that you may not have been aware of to pursue further research. How great is this piece of information?
- **Columns 21 – 33: Employment Status?** Respondents to this question had to be at least 14 years old. Except for columns 27 and 31, the answers apply to week of March 24 to 30, 1940. You will now be able to see information on money, wages, salary received by the respondent. **Many respondents may show zero dollars because they were self-employed and did not receive wages or a salary.**
- **Column 22: Public Emergency Work?** Did your ancestor participate in some form of public emergency work program? Here is a great place to see if they did. Again, the responses apply to the week of March 24 to 30, 1940. **This may indicate participation in the Works Program Administration (WPA), National Youth Administration (NYA), Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) or state or local work relief agencies.** Now you may be able to determine if an ancestor was involved in any of these emergency work programs.
- **Columns 35 – 50: Questions on the Supplemental Schedules?** Two people on pre-selected lines of the initial census ledger were asked to respond to further questions. That amounted to about 5% of the population being asked these questions. **DO NOT FORGET TO LOOK HERE TO SEE IF YOUR ANCESTOR WAS ON A PRE-SELECTED LINE TO RESPOND TO THESE SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS.** In these supplemental questions respondents were asked to provide information on the birthplace of the parents of the respondent, military service and if a person had deductions for Social Security or Railroad Retirement taken from wages. Social Security had only been in place since August 1935. The respondent was asked if the person

had a Social Security Card. Veterans were asked if they had served in the World War (I), Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, or Boxer Rebellion. If the respondent was in a regular military establishment, was asked whether peacetime service only or another war or expedition.

The 1940 Census provides a great deal of information. Don't overlook it and just look at the basic information for your ancestor. **Take note of the above highlighted fields of data that are new, different and in some regards unusual.** Your ancestor may have given you another insight into their lives of April 1940. You can find some interesting insights about your ancestors if you take the time to look at the 1940 Census responses fully, ancestor by ancestor. It sounds like we would all take the time to really analyze what was said by our ancestors. **But sometimes we get wrapped up in the moment of just seeing their name and a few other things. We move on too quickly to other ancestors and don't get all of the details that are staring us in the face that provide us with so much more.**

The authors did a great job in this article of making us aware that so much more exists in this 1940 Census that we should not overlook. Many of us are still waiting for the indexing of the data to be completed before we make these discoveries. But for other researchers, they did their pre-release preparation and are now taking advantage of finding their ancestors by enumeration districts. Once found this way, you can then scroll through the ED and find your ancestor and open up the treasure trove of information that applies to them months in advance of seeing them through the indexing process when completed.

I recommend that you read the entire article. There are many more insights mentioned that apply to being able to fully use the 1940 Census data that exists.

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