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August 14, 2012 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our August 14, 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 **“Skeletons in Our Closets: Researching a Family Scandal”**. The speaker for the program will be Robin Seidenberg.

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 AUGUST 18, 2012 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, August 18, 2012 at the Schaumburg Township District Library from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The program scheduled for this day is **"Atlas of County Boundaries and HistoryGeo.com"**. The speakers for the program will be Sandra Trapp and Kathy Kult.

Atlas of County Boundaries - The Atlas of Historical County Boundaries is an historical research and reference tool in electronic form. This Atlas provides a means to learn the original boundaries and subsequent boundary changes for every county in the U.S. and the District of Columbia.

HistoryGeo.com - If you've ever seen the Arphax Family Maps Books of County Land Ownership Maps, you'll be pleased to know that these maps are now available online at HistoryGeo.com! The researcher can search for surnames of land owners and the website will highlight the selected surname on the applicable land map. The website also allows the researcher to set markers on the maps, chart migration patterns, and has many other features.

Join us for this informative and enjoyable historical geography presentation.

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 SEPTEMBER 11, 2012

The Genealogy program will be held on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 at 7:30 PM in the 2nd floor Classroom.

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

Please note that I will no longer be having a “Troubleshooting Table” that was not really working. Instead for this Breakout session and for those in the future, I plan on having a new table titled “Sharing Your Printed Family Histories/How To”. I would like to use this table at which any participant that has actually created a printed version of their family history would actually show their work to someone that has not done this and would like to do this. Seeing such a creation can help the researcher better understand how it can be done.

The most important part of this effort is that I need those that have created such a report or book to actually come to the program and show what they have done to others interested at this standalone table!! Please, Please!

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 7:45 PM - 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
- Sharing Your Printed Family Histories/How To (NEW TABLE!)**

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 September 2012.

You may visit the library's web page at:

www.SchaumburgLibrary.org

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

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

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Handout #6 – ANCESTRY.COM REACHES 2 MILLION SUBSCRIBERS

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated July 2, 2012.

The following announcement was written by Ancestry.com:

PROVO, Utah, July 2, 2012 -- Ancestry.com (Nasdaq:ACOM), the world's largest online family history resource, has added its two-millionth active current subscriber. The milestone recently was reached when Yvonne Ocheltree, of Collierville, Tenn., signed up to solve a long-standing family mystery about the secret identity of her maternal great-grandfather. With two million active paid subscribers, Ancestry.com, which launched in 1996, is one of the world's most popular paid-subscription resources.

To mark the achievement, Ancestry.com has given Ms. Ocheltree a complimentary lifetime subscription to continue her research in a family history archive that now includes more than 10 billion historic records and images from more than 40 countries, dating back to 1270 A.D.

"Ancestry.com is helping me unravel the secret knots of my family's history and replace a mystery with a provocative possibility," said Ms. Ocheltree. "In Victorian England, my great-grandmother gave birth to my grandmother out of wedlock when she was 25, and no one in my family ever heard her say who the father — my great-grandfather — was. Through Ancestry.com, I discovered my great-grandmother was working as the head housekeeper for a wealthy, landed English family. Was my great-grandfather also in service for that family, or — shades of 'Downton Abbey' or some English romance novel — might I be related to my great-grandmother's wealthy employers? That's what I'm using Ancestry.com to research now."

The company is also awarding a lifetime subscription to its longest-standing active member, Sharon Bowen of Sheboygan, Wis., who has been a subscriber continuously since 1997. Ms. Bowen joined Ancestry.com after learning that her husband, Floyd Bowen, was related to Moses Carver, a white farmer who raised the pioneering African-American scientist George Washington Carver after slavery was abolished, encouraging the younger Carver's intellectual pursuits.

"We are grateful to all our subscribers for helping us reach the milestone of two million active subscribers, and for challenging us to continuously improve our service," said Tim Sullivan, President and CEO of Ancestry.com. "When Ancestry.com began more than 15 years ago, our goal was to make family history research accessible to — and fun for — everyone. Our reaching two million active subscribers is just the latest step in the public's growing interest in discovering more about themselves by preserving and sharing their family history on a global basis."

Ancestry.com's Roots

Since Ms. Bowen of Sheboygan began her subscription to Ancestry.com nearly 15 years ago, the site has grown from 472 million static, text-only records — a variety of vital records, family and local histories that were originally sold on CDs — to more than 10 billion online searchable documents and images, including prison logs, ship

manifests, historic newspapers and yearbook photos.

Ancestry.com members search the site's collection of historical records to find documents and photos that capture their family story. They then create profiles for each individual they identify in their family tree, share memories, upload photos and images, record and archive conversations and interviews, and invite family members to do the same. They can also connect with other members and, often, discover living relatives they hadn't known about before. Ancestry.com offers a variety of subscription plans, starting at \$12.95 a month.

Other interesting Ancestry.com factoids:

- Over 6,000,000,000: The number of connections Ancestry.com subscribers have made between their trees and other subscribers' trees since this feature was added to the site in early 2008.
- 3,500,000: Average number of searches conducted daily on Ancestry.com.
- 1,578,421: The most records attached by a subscriber, Bonnie Myers of Lynden, Wash., to a single Ancestry.com tree.
- 404,611: The number of "nodes" or branches on the largest subscriber-created Ancestry.com tree. The subscriber, Paul Rhettts, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, has used Ancestry.com to trace his family history back 20 generations on each side.

To help users get started, Ancestry.com offers a 14-day free trial to let interested family historians search the treasure trove of records and make discoveries of their own. For more details, visit www.ancestry.com.

About Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com Inc. (Nasdaq:ACOM) is the world's largest online family history resource, with 2 million paying subscribers. More than 10 billion records have been added to the site in the past 15 years. Ancestry users have created more than 34 million [family trees](#) containing approximately 4 billion profiles. In addition to its flagship site, Ancestry.com offers several localized Web sites designed to empower people to discover, preserve and share their family history.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Congratulations to Ancestry.com on achieving a 2 millionth subscriber!

A lot of companies do celebrate such accomplishments with the signing on of new customers or the purchase of a product that also has a milestone significance like the 1 millionth unit of Product X purchased. Apple has done such celebratory activities with the downloading of its apps at its App Store. I believe they also gave the customer that purchased the 1 billionth App a \$10,000 certificate to make more purchases from the App Store!

Such success by Ancestry.com does make it a little surprising that NBC recently canceled "Who Do You think You Are?". It does seem like Ancestry.com is on the upswing with large revenues from a large base of subscribers. Yet with all the viewers that seemed to watch the show sponsored by Ancestry.com it does make you wonder what is really going on behind the scenes when it sure looked like a

winning proposition between NBC and Ancestry.com. If only we were the proverbial "fly on the wall" to hear the conversations that took place between NBC and Ancestry.com.

I also think the list of "factoids" presented in the above blog post are interesting.

3.5 million searches each and every day on Ancestry.com! Well, let me guess, all of you that are reading this probably contributed at least 2,000,000 of that daily total just by yourselves!

1.5 million records attached by a single researcher to a single family tree! How is that possible? Is this person running a data center herself to upload all of this material? I guess if you settle to upload 20 pieces of material you are not living up to your own capabilities. I have to believe that this is a time-consuming operation for her to upload that much data. If you find that much and have the knowledge, skills and time to upload the materials, then my hats off to Bonnie Myers of Lynden, Washington!

So I guess there will not be any more "freebies" handed out by Ancestry.com for some new milestones. I would think the next milestone is 3,000,000 subscribers, not 2.2 million subscribers. Plan your subscription out into the future if you don't have one and see if you could be the lucky winner for whatever the next milestone will be from Ancestry.com.

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Handout #7 – GETTING STARTED IN GENETIC GENEALOGY

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated July 19, 2012.

CeCe Moore has written a great overview about DNA testing for genealogy for anyone who is new to DNA. Hosted on Geni.com, the series of articles is designed to answer the most commonly-asked questions:

- Do you have a general curiosity about genetic genealogy or is your focus more specific? Are you primarily interested in researching your surname?
- Are there specific brick walls that you wish to target with the use of DNA testing?
- How far back in your family tree are these brick walls?
- What is the ancestral pattern back to these brick walls, i.e. - mother's mother's mother or father's mother's mother's father?
- Are you ready for a long-term project or do you desire quick answers?
- Are there adoptions in your family tree that you would like to explore?
- Is your primary interest receiving a percentage breakdown of your overall ancestral origins or "ethnicity"?

You can read the first of this multi-part series at <http://goo.gl/OcIE2>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Using DNA to discover connections into your past is growing and growing and growing! It is the hot topic in genealogy with more and more researchers contributing their swabbed cheek material into growing pools of DNA from interested researchers throughout the world.

You can't find anything about your ancestral past searching these DNA databases until you and related researchers contribute your DNA so your connections can be discovered in these growing DNA databases.

I would definitely read the full article noted above. It also looks like it is the first of a series of articles that will be appearing at the website authored by CeCe Moore.

Now is the time to at least become familiar with the aspect of using DNA in conjunction with your genealogy research. You can't escape all of the scientific aspects of what DNA can do, but it does seem like you the more you read about it, the more certain key terms will become familiar and understandable. That is why articles by CeCe can take the overly done scientific out of DNA as we care about and make it more enticing to give it a try and join the growing pools of DNA samples that are being contributed by researchers. Each is hoping something "neat" will be uncovered in the DNA results that are determined. Maybe as yet an "unknown" ancestor is shared between you and someone else that provided their DNA because your two DNAs have a close match.

I would also recommend taking a look at both the DNA process you can read about at both Ancestry.com and at FamilyTreeDNA.

Each site has a very introductory description of what the process is, some scientific aspects of the process, costs, as well as numbers in the already growing databases of DNA provided by participants. **In fact at the FamilyTreeDNA site, they indicate they are the largest in database. They have about 385,000 samples submitted to them.** So while that number compared to 10 billion research records in Ancestry.com is small. But like anything starting out, you get to 10 billion one record at a time over one day at a time!

Read CeCe's article above and note the site for her future articles.

Consider visiting the Ancestry.com portion of their site for DNA at:

<http://dna.ancestry.com/>

Consider visiting the FamilyTreeDNA website at:

<http://www.familytreedna.com/>

You can even watch some videos at each of the sites to hear someone tell you about DNA and what the buzz is all about.

One of the more important aspects of DNA testing and genealogy applies to those that are adopted and simply do not know of any of their ancestors. DNA testing can put that person down the path of discovering biological connections that the rest of us take for granted in our own research. **DNA testing can also shed light on those ancestors of ours that may in fact not been blood-relatives.** Perhaps young children, unrelated by blood, were taken in by families in times past due to unusual circumstances. Perhaps those children took on the name of the family. **Now you may discover that a family member you know by ancestral connection from your research, may in fact not be connected to you by blood because of circumstances that occurred in years past.**

So DNA may open up some "pleasant" and interesting connections. But it can also open up some "troubling" and uncertain ones also. Approach it with an open mind or don't approach it at all if you are not willing to discover what may be sides of ancestral connections that are not easy to take.

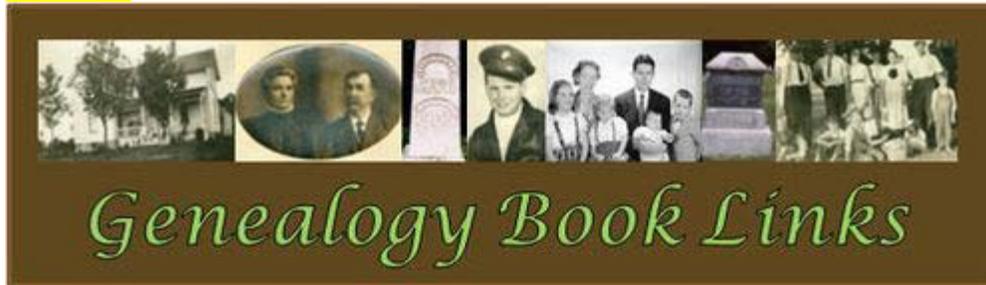
Like anything else, learn about the subject, analyze it, and then make the plunge with open eyes!

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Handout #8 – GENEALOGY BOOK LINKS

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated July 12, 2012.

This is a great online tool! Mollie Lynch of Clarkston, Michigan, is a retired librarian who decided to assist people wishing to find genealogy books. She knew that thousands of American biographies, genealogies and history books have been digitized and made available on the Internet, usually free of charge. However, there was no single resource of "what is available and where." Mollie decided to create that resource.



Mollie's web site, GenealogyBookLinks.com, provides links to freely available digital books, focusing on American biographies, genealogies, and history books. The site now contains more than 30,000 links from more than 35 sources (only the top sources are listed on the site). New books are being added to the list daily. The current focus is on surnames, directories, vital records, and identifying smaller sites with local area-specific books.

Using the Genealogy Book Links web site is simple: you either scroll through the list of available books or else use the site's search capability to find a surname or location of interest. Once you find something that looks interesting, click on the link and you are taken to the book as stored on another web site. In other words, it works like Google or any other search engine or like Cyndi's List. I love the fact that you can easily "stroll through the stacks" in about the same manner as any other library: go down the list of available books in whatever topic you wish and click on anything that looks interesting. A few seconds later you are "thumbing" through the pages of the book of interest.

I was pleasantly surprised when I did a search for my own surname and found a number of books available, including one I had not seen before. A few seconds later, I was reading that book. It worked quickly and easily, all at no charge.

When searching through the thousands of digital books listed on this site, I noticed that the links lead to Google Books, The Internet Archive, Brigham Young University's ebooks, OpenLibrary.org, many university libraries, as well as to several other major and lesser-known online libraries of digital books.

In some ways, this is sort of the equivalent of "Cyndi's List" but for digital genealogy and history books. I also believe this is a perfect example of the digital libraries of the future: being able to find books on any topic, regardless of where they are

available.

This site also is a great example of showing the value of digital **librarians** in the future. A person with expert knowledge of a topic can create lists of resources available. In this case, an expert genealogist with librarian experience is able to help thousands of online "patrons" around the world, instead of being limited to helping only the small number of patrons who are able to visit a physical library in person. In fact, it is possible that Mollie Lynch's efforts could help hundreds of thousands, possibly millions, of people find information about their ancestry or about the places where their ancestors lived.

I also might disagree with Mollie Lynch's use of the words "retired librarian." I don't think she is retired at all. In fact, it looks to me like she is now helping more people than ever!

GenealogyBookLinks.com focuses solely on American biographies, genealogies, and history books. However, as the years go by, I expect that we will see similar resources for thousands of other topics, thereby creating true digital libraries of books of all topics.

To use Mollie Lynch's GenealogyBookLinks.com, go to <http://genealogybooklinks.com>.

My thanks to James Duffy for telling me about this great resource.

Comments by Tony Kierna

This is a very nice site that just begs exploring or searching!

You can really get deep into the site just browsing around the variety of material that is in book form as well as magazine format. I did click on the link that got me to the magazines section of the site. I find it interesting for historical purposes to look through the various online magazines that can vary in age and browse through them looking at the advertising material. By today's standards you can sure find a lot of stuff that can only be regarded as "snake oil" advertisements for devices and "health" material that is far from being healthy by today's knowledge.

The creator of the site slices and dices all of this material in a way that makes it accessible in a variety of ways. Plus, you can search the site itself by keywords or names or whatever words you want. Discoveries can be made because the online data has been digitized and indexed allowing the searching of all of this material by word.

You will see categories such as:

- *Biographies and Family Genealogies (broken down further by General, Men, Women and first letter of the last name)*
- *Books by State*
- *Material Type (such as Directories, Encyclopedias, Magazines, etc.)*
- *Search box for both the site and for the Web*

The creator of the site also provides a nice documented list of the sources of all of this material. So you can easily see all the places from which the material was obtained e.g. Google Books, Harvard University, Library of Congress, etc. The site creator indicates by name that there are 26 sources for all of this material.

I also see an interesting statistical table at the bottom of the web page that shows how many visitors there have been to the site in order of highest to lowest by state of origin. Illinois is shown as 7th highest with number of visitors originating from Illinois with a total of about 1,200 visitors when I visited the site on July 31, 2012. California has the highest number of visitors with about 3,100. North Dakota is showing the least visits with about 39.

I did try the "Search" box and I am truly uncertain about what it was presenting to me. I used "Chicago" as a search term and specified I wanted to search the material from this site and not the web in general. I did see the search term "Chicago" in some of the next hits in the description of the material. I clicked on the title of the information for my first series of hits. When I was presented with the next page of "hits" I truly do not know what it was giving me. I did not see "Chicago" highlighted or obviously shown in any of the results. So I do not think it is text searching the contents of all of the material for Chicago, but rather finding the term "Chicago" in the summarized description of the material. I need to play around with this some more to really discover how this works. This may be a weak point!

I did try searching for a family history for the surname "Balcom". It gave me zero results. I looked at the biography list starting with the letter "B" for Balcom and did not see any in the listing under the letter "B" for Balcom. So I felt this worked OK. But again, it does not look like it searches the entirety of the collection material for the surname "Balcom". It just searches at a higher level the summary material or listings of the material, not the material itself.

I hate to say it but I think I am just going to "browse" the site. I find that I see the pathways easier and upfront on what I get rather than "searching" and being uncertain what I see presented to me. Browsing will certainly give me a good idea of what material exists.

There are a lot of "Ads by Google" that appear as your first results when you search. Be careful with these because you will have to scroll past these to find the actual hits from searching the site itself for its material.

I think this site has great potential but I personally have to get a better feel for using the search capability and understanding what it is presenting to me. I have not resolved what I see presented as it relates to my search term. That is not a good feeling trying to decipher what is presented to me.

Give this site a try and see if you have any better results or a better feel for what you see. Be prepared to see lots of ads! As with any site you just have to learn the nuances better to fully be able to get the most from a site. I just have not yet reached that level of skill with this site.

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Handout #9 – PASSENGER LISTS: A VALUABLE RESOURCE

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the June/July 2012, Volume 7, Number 2 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled "Passenger Lists: A Valuable Resource". The author of the article is Thomas Jay Kemp.

We think of a "passenger" list as one that reflects someone coming from overseas originating point on a ship into a port somewhere in the United States. This is a classic "passenger list". This article, however, really expands the idea of a "passenger list" into something far more expansive. How about if an ancestor traveled on a ship originating somewhere in the Midwest and winding up in Duluth, Minnesota? There would be passengers but not in the sense we identify with passenger lists. These lists would be intra-state and not oceanic. How about passengers riding on a stagecoach ending up in Denver, Colorado? Who would have thought of those trips being recorded as "passenger lists"? How about a local ship on a large lake like Lake Superior that sinks? That ship may have had passengers but it did not complete its journey.

The article really makes us focus outside of the norm of what we know as passenger lists. And where is all of this information found? The author tells us that the best place to find this kind of unusual passenger list information is contained in the many newspapers of times past. It was not uncommon over a hundred years to have newspapers include such lists of arrivals of people as write-ups in their local newspapers. It was news that John Doe from Chicago, IL was arriving as a passenger on the local connecting stage run all the way from Chicago, IL. In addition to John, the stage transported passengers A, B, C, D and E. This was the news of the day of family visits, especially when the reunited family came from so far away! That was news!

For the vast amount of researchers, our own research may have never discovered the information at such detail to allow us to go to a specific issue of a specific paper and peruse the entire paper to look for these tidbits of great information. Our salvation today lies with the many newspaper digitization projects that are converting millions and millions of pages of newsprint to digitized images along with scanned digitally converted text that allows us to enter in the name of an ancestor to see if that name appears anywhere in the digitized text of that newspaper. Only then might we know that our ancestor traveled on a local stage line to visit their sister in a nearby area. Or that an ancestor may have taken a trip down the Mississippi on one of the intra-waterway passenger ships plying that route.

Often, the newspapers also included the geographical tie that bound two families. Not only is family member A listed in the newspaper on some form of a "passenger list", but family member A is also noted as visiting from Yorktown, Virginia. You may have never known that. You now have a geographical connection at a very detailed level to pursue other research of family member A in that area. You may also

discover that Person A is married, has three children named X, Y, and Z and came from Limerick, Ireland! Names on passenger lists are nice but how nice is it to also possibly even discover a biography going back 50 years or more!

The author points out that a great source for these digitized newspapers containing these kinds of lists can come from GenealogyBank. This source contains 5,850 newspapers with some dating back to 1690. Many of the current newspapers are far more current than historical but at least you can see what is contained in the database. GenealogyBank is one of the databases that our own library subscribes to. It can be accessed not only in our own library but also accessed from home for our own cardholders of the library. You can visit Genealogy Bank at:

www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/newspapers/sourcelist

See what newspapers are contained in this wonderful database.

Take a look at the entire article to see the exact newspaper accounts that were extracted from the newspapers and used as examples by the author to make us more aware that passenger lists are not just those we are familiar with. Take a bigger picture look at what passenger lists really mean in the context of those that can be discovered searching within digitized newspapers.

This article sure opened up my eyes to consider passenger lists in a far broader view than I had previously had.

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Handout #10 – FINDING YOUR REVOLUTIONARY WAR ANCESTORS

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the July/August 2012, Volume 16, Number 6 issue of Family Chronicle.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled "Finding Your Revolutionary War Ancestors". The author of this article is Craig Roberts Scott.

The author notes that researching your Revolutionary War ancestor is a lot easier today than it was twenty years. Twenty years ago the researcher more than likely had to go access a great deal of data that was on microfilms from the National Archives. You were going to be researching the Compiled Military Service Records (CMSR) or Revolutionary War Pension Application files on microfilm. As with so much data today, these records can now be searched and found online through Ancestry.com or Fold3.com.

The above assumed you actually knew of a Revolutionary War ancestor and you were trying to discover him in the records. The author asks the questions "What do you do when you don't know who you are looking for?" "What do you do when you know who you are looking for but you do not find them in any of the standard sources?" "What do you do when they appear in the in the service records but not the pension records, or vice versa?"

One tactic to apply to your research in this area is to try to establish that you may even have an ancestor living in the colonies. Is there a family story about service in the Revolution? Do you have a family member who is a member of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) <http://www.dar.org/> , National Society Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR) <http://www.sar.org/> , or the General Society Sons of the Revolution (GSSR) <http://www.sr1776.org/> ? Family stories can get you going in the correct direction.

What if you have no family stories, no leads, no current hope? Revert back to your existing research for review. Revisit your pedigree charts. Look for people born between 1690 and 1770 and who died after 1775. This becomes your "possible" list. Your ancestor may not have actually served in the military but could still be considered for admission into these societies because "civil service and patriotic service" are also acceptable aspects of an ancestors life to gain membership.

Another list you can create from your pedigree charts are for those born between 1750 and 1850 for who we do not yet know their parents. Finding these parents may lead you to the Revolutionary War connection.

Any individual that is on both of these assessment lists may be a prime candidate to further research for the Revolutionary War connection.

The author notes that consulting the Compiled Military Service Record (CMSR) alone may not provide you with enough information to prove that a name found there is

actually the one that connects to your pedigree. The pension record information is actually needed in conjunction with the CMSR to make a better determination that the named person is actually the one that connects to your own pedigree.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Patriot Index is another source to consider for a name search, especially for any spousal information found there that match to your own research. You can find this online at http://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search. Use this database when you know the name of an ancestor you are trying to connect to the Revolutionary War. Also use the "Descendant" database search at DAR to make connections. These are descendants of those that are already in the DAR. If you find someone here that links to yourself, then you in essence link to someone listed already in the DAR.

The author also notes that Ancestry.com recently added the Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970 to its list of databases. It consists of about 1.26 million records. You can search through here to ancestors you know that they themselves may have researched a connection to Revolutionary War ancestors. If you link to them you then link to the Revolutionary War ancestor.

The author makes a point that if you find connections in these various databases it may indicate that you in fact have a connection to a Revolutionary War ancestor. However, just finding a connection within these databases or indexes is not sufficient for you assume membership in the society. You would still need to provide additional proof of your ancestral lines to those in the system already for you to have complete proof of a connection. Your own research of your lines making connections to past lines will need to be submitted for evaluation and consideration for membership in the society.

If you have an inkling of ancestral Revolutionary War connections I would recommend reading the entire article to give you a deeper perspective on how to go about fully researching. You may very well find yourself one discovering a connection and making an application into one of these prestigious societies that honor our Revolutionary War ancestors.

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