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December 11, 2012 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our December 11, 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 JANUARY 5, 2013

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, January 5, 2013. The program for the morning is titled **“Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Hanover Military Records”**. The speaker for the morning will be Teresa S. McMillin (CG).

There will be no meeting in the month of December 2012 due to the Holidays!

Teresa S. McMillin specializes in German-American and Midwest research. She has been interested in genealogy since she was a child and has many satisfied clients with German and Midwest ancestry. Teresa presents quality genealogical lectures for local societies and national conferences.

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 JANUARY 16, 2013

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, January 16, 2013. The program scheduled for that evening is **“Engaging the Next Generation: Parents and Grandparents Teaching Children About Genealogy”**. The speaker for the program will be Jennifer Holik.

Perhaps we waited too long to take an interest in Family History. If only our own parents or grandparents had shared their family history stories with us when we were children! Even better, wouldn't it have been nice if they actually worked with us to actually learn about the methodology of family history. Look at how much more advanced our research might be today if that had happened.

Jennifer has over sixteen years of research and writing experience. She has authored articles for local and national genealogical publications and wrote and published kids genealogy curriculum in 2012. She also lectures in the Chicagoland area and present teacher workshops to help teachers present family history in the classroom. Jennifer is also a published author and has a business called Generations Biz.

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.dcgcs.org

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON JANUARY 19, 2013 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, January 19, 2013 at the Schaumburg Township District Library from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM. The program scheduled for this day is **"Hidden Treasures At Ancestry.com – And How To Find Them"**. The speakers for the program will be Loretto (Lou) Szucs and Juliana Smith.

This program is also being co-sponsored by the Schaumburg Township District Library.

Registration through the Schaumburg Township district Library ***IS REQUIRED***.

With billions of records at Ancestry.com, some of the richest treasures are sometimes overlooked. This presentation by Loretto (Lou) Szucs and Juliana Smith of Ancestry.com is designed to spark new ideas by highlighting some great collections that don't surface immediately in a general search. Come and discover new databases and learn how to use Ancestry.com most effectively so that you can get the most out of your research time.

Juliana Smith has been with Ancestry.com for 15 years. During that time she has edited Ancestry.com newsletters and as Senior Communications and Education Associate, she has presented webinars, created blogs and participated in other social media for the company. She is a certificate-holder from the Boston University Genealogy Research program.

Loretto (Lou) Szucs has been with Ancestry.com for 20 years, is author and/or editor of more than a dozen books, including *The Source*, *They Became Americans*, *Chicago and Cook County Research*, and she has served on several genealogical society boards, including Illinois State Genealogical Society and the Federation of Genealogical Societies where she is currently serving as a director.

CAGGNI will conduct their business portion of the program from 10:30 AM until approximately 10:50 AM. The guest speakers will begin their program approximately 10:50 AM until about 12:30 PM. The CAGGNI Family Tree Maker Special Interest Group will then start their program which will last until 2:30 PM.

Participants in the first part of the program do not have to participate in the 2nd part of the program unless they have a special interest in the Family Tree Maker Special Interest Group.

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 JANUARY 8, 2013**

The program for our January 8, 2013 program is titled **“Where Did I Put Great-Grandpa? – Organizing for Genealogists”**. Our guest speaker for this program will be Caron Primas Brennan.

There is nothing more frustrating in genealogical research when you know you have a document or a file or something of interest for a particular ancestor but you cannot find it in your piles, binders or file cabinets or even on your computer searching under any term you can think of. Don't raise your blood pressure needlessly! **Get your material organized and accessible under all circumstances.**

Caron loves history, biography, puzzles and a good mystery, which makes her perfectly suited to genealogy research! She has been researching her family history since a 6th grade school project got her interested. She has been using the computer and internet since before it was “cool”. She uses The Master Genealogist as her primary software and also uses Family Tree Maker and Ancestry to share with others in her family. Caron's only vice is genealogy research so she has subscriptions to many resources including Ancestry.com, Genealogybank.com, NEGHS, Footnote, and Godfrey Memorial Library. She belongs to several local genealogy groups and is the Webmaster and Newsletter Publisher for CAGGNI (www.caggni.org).

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 – WILL FUTURE GENEALOGISTS BE ABLE TO READ HANDWRITTEN DOCUMENTS?

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated October 29, 2012.

Today's children and young adults often cannot read handwriting. During the past 20 years or so, schools have been deemphasizing the skill. Many school districts are adopting something called the Common Core Curriculum, which eliminates cursive outright. The theory is that cursive is obsolete. Apparently, most writing — including class notes — is being done on laptops.

That's great for today's notes, but how does one read old notes?

Gene Weingarten addresses the question in an article in the Washington Post Magazine at <http://goo.gl/8m3Hs>.

My thanks to newsletter reader Edward Barnard for telling me about this story.

Comments by Tony Kierna

I now have big welts, bruises, and black and blue marks over my body from pinching myself in disbelief.

Is this for real?

You must read the article at the above link and you will come to the ultimate conclusion that it is in fact real. In the article above the author makes note that his own 28 year old son was not taught cursive handwriting in school. The substitute was to learn to print!

*This means that when you stop learning how to write in cursive form, succeeding generations will **NOT BE ABLE TO READ CURSIVE HANDWRITING IN THE FUTURE!!***

You too will also now begin to have black and blue marks on your body from pinching yourself in disbelief.

The article above in a humorous manner paints a bleak picture for future genealogists. How is this possible that our future generations will not be able to read the handwriting style of us and our ancestors' documents because the practice is no longer being taught in schools!

Here is a quoted paragraph from the above article that will make you cry and laugh (probably more cry!!):

"A stronger argument is that if we lose the ability to write in cursive, we will soon lose the ability to read in cursive, meaning that, say, the original U.S. Constitution will become as indecipherable as a palimpsest, understandable only by experts in

ancient runes who will be free to put all sorts of unintended "spin" on it. (The Second Amendment protects calligraphers? Well, if you say so.)"

I have 2 grandchildren. One is currently in High School, one in Grammar School. I never thought I would ever need to ask and clarify whether they could read a handwritten note from me to them.

Perhaps I thought incorrectly that all the good words I wrote to them, telling them how great they are and how much I loved them, were never responded back with a "Thank You". When you are 14 and 12 you NEVER respond back with a "Thank You"!! I might have it all wrong. They may never have understood what I even wrote to them. Could that be true??

I now have a mission in life. No more written notes to them until I know they can read what I write using cursive handwriting. Sure they can read Chat Messages and E-Mail. But can they read your personal handwritten notes??!

My world is crumbling around me even faster now than even 5 minutes ago before I started writing this. Maybe I have given all of you a queasy feeling with your own kids and grandkids. And you thought they did not respond to you because they are teens and pre-teens.

YIKES!

So now your handwritten missives to them must take place in the form of PRINTED handwritten notes. Or maybe you just have to dump that idea and just Tweet, FaceBook, E-mail, Text and Chat with them! At least you will be assured they can read those forms.

So as genealogists today, you really better roll up your sleeves and absolutely complete all the research you can with all of the documents you research that involve cursive handwriting. You have to do it, because your kids and grandkids will not be able to! And then when you find the documents make sure you transcribe them in PRINTED form.

Who would have thunk???

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Handout #7 – SUPERSTORM SANDY DAMAGES HOME RECORDS; ARE YOUR RESEARCH RECORDS SAFE?

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated November 3, 2012.

Many sad stories are coming out of this week's storm in the northeastern United States. Homes were lost and damage is obviously in the billions of dollars. On a personal note, many families lost family photographs, mementos, and even genealogy records.

One sad picture is available at

<http://i2.cdn.turner.com/cnn/dam/assets/121103122731-04-sandy-recovery-1103-horizontal-gallery.jpg>

where the description says, "Members of the Traina family on Friday sort through photographs and other personal items from their Staten Island home that was destroyed by Superstorm Sandy."

People who live in hurricane-prone areas and tornado-prone areas often have evacuation plans that include saving lives, followed by saving items of importance to the family. However, those in the northeastern U.S. and elsewhere are not used to making such plans.

Here is a question: do you and your family have a plan for saving items of importance in case of a disaster?

There are hundreds of ways to save such things. The difficulty is in defining a plan that works for you and your family. Of course, you want to save the originals, if possible. However, in the case of family photographs and documents, keeping an off-site digital copy is a good idea. Superstorm Sandy proved that the off-site copy should not be located a few miles away. Instead, off-site copies should be stored hundreds or even thousands of miles away, out of harm's way.

My thanks to W David Samuelson for telling me about the photograph.

Comments by Tony Kierna

No one is immune from disaster that can affect their lives in a split-second. A hurricane is not as much a split-second disaster in our world today. Those in these hurricane-prone areas knew something big was coming literally a week in advance.

A disaster does not have to be on the magnitude of a hurricane, tornado or a flood as it pertains to the fruits of our genealogy research efforts. All of our research papers can be sitting in plastic sleeves that fit nice in a binder but may be of archive quality material. Disaster over time.

Think of your carton box of research papers sitting on the floor in your basement. Oooops! Your sump pump fails in a heavy rain storm. There goes that box of papers on the floor as the cardboard wicks up all of the water on the floor. Disaster!

Or maybe instead of the basement you choose an attic, or an attic crawlspace accessible via a ceiling entrance in your closet to store your papers. Great place to store all of that research in an area that is not conveniently reached or made easily accessible. Oh well, out of sight, out of mind! Boy we did have a sweltering summer. It was 100 degrees but at least we had air conditioning. Oooooops! Not those boxes of research papers up in the 140 degree attic that are now baking up there. Go take a look at your newspaper obituary clippings now or the handwritten letters from your great-grandfather you were saving. Yep, it is hard to put all of that crumbled paper back together. But then again you were always good at putting together that 500 piece scenic puzzle on your card table. And by the way, did I mention that the 140 degree attic is also the same place for the 20 below zero winter setting in your house. Nothing like the smell of freeze-dried paper in the morning.

Or maybe you have all of your data and lineage documentation on your computer. Of course, every month or at least every so often, like at the turn of the millennium, you back up your data to a flash drive, or burn a CD or DVD, or put your stuff up on the cloud. Of course you back-up!! Oooooops. Your hard drive failed. No problem, let me find that millennial back-up I did 12 years ago. Oooooops. That was my DOS computer that was backed up. Oh well I guess I was just not that interested in genealogy and passing material down the generations.

Or maybe you are not technically savvy at all. No computer. No Internet. No cloud. (Sounds like "No nothing!!"). You still have tons of papers. Maybe you did not put them in the basement or the attic. You thought you were safe. Oooooops! You did not think you would have a kitchen fire that spread to the dining room where all of your papers were laid out like perfect soldiers in a row!! You at least made copies of your paper on the Xerox copier machine and sent the extra copy set to your cousin that lives 50 miles away for her to at least store in their house in a closet. Oooooops!

So you can see, there are many Oooooops moments that are lurking out there that do not involve the sad natural disasters that humans cannot control or eliminate or divert as was mentioned in the original article.

Collaborate with your cousins. Be reciprocal. You copy your research material be it on electronic media or as paper, and give that for safe keeping in the house of your cousin and they do the same with their material to your house. Scan and get your material on the Cloud. Keep a CD or DVD of your files at your work location, if you are still working. But the answer is to do something! Disasters keep occurring all of the time. You may be lucky to escape them. But why take a chance. As you can see it does not take a hurricane or a tornado or a flood to be a disaster.

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Handout #8 – GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY QUESTION AND ANSWER SITE NOW IN PUBLIC BETA MODE

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

The following announcement was written by the organizers of the Genealogy and Family History Q&A web site:

Over 200 Avid Genealogists Have Worked for Almost 2 Months to Make This Site Possible

After 20 days in "Definition" phase, 31 days in "Commitment" phase, and 7 days in Private Beta, a new resource for genealogists and family historians worldwide is now in Public Beta and is now open to everyone. [Genealogy and Family History Q&A](#) is where you can go to ask questions about genealogy and solve problems you are having in your research and get answers fast from experts in the field and other genealogy enthusiasts.

New York City, New York – Stack Exchange Inc., has just released the Genealogy and Family History Q&A site into Public Beta. Public Beta is a minimum 90 day period where the site is released to the general public. If sufficient interest is shown by the community as measured by level of activity and traffic, then the site will be made permanent and allowed to be community run. This site is unaffiliated with any genealogy company or service. There is no cost to use the site and it only requires that you create an account to participate.

When someone asks a question on at Genealogy and Family History Q&A, the community reviews, revises, and proposes answers to it.

Answers are rated and ranked by the rest of the community. Members also vote for questions they find useful, or against those they see as unclear or unproductive. The more votes, the more visibility - so that searches result in the best answer to the best question.

Questions and answers can be edited by other members, Wikipedia-style. This lets the community continue to polish and update content even when the original authors aren't available.

"We hope Genealogy and Family History Q&A will become the place genealogists of all levels go to get answers to their problems, and also the place they go to use their expertise to answer the problems of others," says Louis Kessler, one of the participants helping with the proposal. "Everyone from experts, to avid enthusiasts down to beginners will be able to benefit from using the site."

About Stack Exchange, Inc.

Stack Exchange is a [growing network](#) of individual communities, each dedicated to serving experts in a specific field. They build libraries of high-quality questions and answers, focused on each community's area of expertise.

About Louis Kessler

Louis Kessler is a long-time programmer and genealogist. He is the author of the genealogy software [Behold](#) and operates the [Genealogy Software Reviews site](#). Louis has participated in the Stack Overflow site on the Stack Exchange Network that is for programming questions and answers. He helped with the proposal and private beta of the Genealogy & Family History Q&A site.

Comments by Tony Kierna

I did peruse the sight to see what it is all about. The site is evolving, hence, it is labeled as being in "beta" at this time. It is certainly a very good concept. Ask a "good" genealogical question and see answers come back to you from the genealogical community. What makes this site rather unique is that it appears the questions and answers are scored by voters as to being very good questions with very good answers. You can also find poor questions and poor answers. Sometimes the questions and the answers may be removed simply because they are considered as not being very helpful or to the point.

You do not have to register for the site to submit a question or provide an answer. In fact, you yourself can ask a question and supply your own answer to the question. This would be done to help others that may very well have the same question as it applies to their research. By you answering your own question, you share your knowledge to that particular point of genealogy research.

The part of the site regarding the Q & A seems somewhat straightforward. You will find a list of questions at the site that you can just peruse. This can be time consuming. You can search for questions that you think might be applicable to your own research. You can find these questions by using a "tag" search to find all questions that might be under that tag. If you are doing German research, you might try using the tag "Germany". If you do that, all the questions having the same tag are grouped together. You can look at a very large list of the "tags" that are being used to see if there is a general tag that applies to your interests. A question can be categorized under multiple "tags". Browsing the category of "tags" is the best for you to gauge what is out there for you to find the questions that may be questions you might have specific to your area of interest.

The site gets a little confusing because you are going to see lots of numbers associated with a Q & A. Trying to figure out what they mean is a little daunting early on because the numbers come from "votes" that requires registration. The site seems to have voting done by registered member experts on the questions and the quality of the answers. Another term you will see used on the site related to the Q & A is the word "reputation". If you become a registered participant, you will in essence develop a "reputation" measured based on your "answers" to the questions of others as well as the questions themselves. You are putting your genealogy knowledge and skills on the line here by your answers. You really need to know your stuff at this site and to show it via your answers to questions and the questions also.

The following FAQ explanation on "Reputation" indicates to me how "complex" this site seems to be evolving. For the average person, if you ask a question, you are looking for a good answer. It just seems like there is a great deal of overhead in developing a "reputation" by having votes taken on the questions and the answers

and so much more. I just wonder if this is what users of this site really want to have happen. Judge the complexity of the site yourself based on the following that came from the FAQ at the site on "Reputation":

The primary way to gain reputation is by posting good questions and useful answers. Your peers will vote on your posts, and those votes will cause you to gain (or, in rare cases, lose) reputation:

- answer is voted up +10**
- question is voted up +5**
- answer is accepted +15 (+2 to acceptor)**
- question is voted down -2**
- answer is voted down -2 (-1 to voter)**

A maximum of 40 votes can be cast per user per day, however, to reach the maximum you must vote on at least 10 questions. You can earn a maximum of 200 reputation per day. Please note that votes for posts marked "community wiki" do not generate any reputation, while accepted answers and bounty awards are not subject to the daily reputation limit.

The other way to gain reputation is by suggesting edits to existing posts as a new registered user. Each edit will be peer reviewed, and if it is accepted, you will earn +2 reputation. You can only earn a maximum of +1000 total reputation through suggested edits, however.

Amass enough reputation points and Genealogy and Family History - Stack Exchange will grant you additional privileges:

(note that reputation requirements have been relaxed slightly for the duration of the public beta)

WOW! It literally sounds like I am being told of all the rules and regulations as if I were on a quiz show on TV! I just wonder why anyone would really want to participate at the site with such complexity overhead. Isn't it all about asking a question and getting a good answer without needing all of the complex measurements?

Give the site a try yourself. You may find that the complexity of the site may steer you away from even trying it. See for yourself. To me right now the site seems unusually complex and difficult to make sense of in an easy manner. Maybe there is a place for a site like this in the genealogical community. Like anything else, you don't know how it will be until you try it. And trying it comes from both sides of the fence, the site developers and those that participate in the site. It is a beta site and is evolving. See for yourself.

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Handout #9 – YOUR GENEALOGY BUCKET LIST: FIVE MUST-DO ACTIVITIES

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the November/December 2012, Volume 17, Number 2 issue of Family Chronicle.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled "Your Genealogy Bucket List: Five Must-Do Activities!". The author of the article is Gena Philibert-Ortega.

What is a "bucket list"? It came about from the movie of the same title in which two male friends who were terminally ill decided to go about doing the things they always wanted to do before their death. Sometimes, the content of a "bucket list" can be outrageous activities that no one in the early stages of life might engage in. Sometimes the content of a bucket list may be simple, meaningful things to do that you just have not gotten around to do. But the concept of a "bucket list" is here to stay as a repository of those things we want to do sometime in life before we pass away.

So the author puts together some thoughts and ideas on what might be a good genealogical "bucket list" for identifying the things on the list that we must consider doing before we pass away and becomes someone's entry on a Pedigree chart!! Maybe you already have your own genealogical bucket list. See how yours compares to that suggested by the author.

The author suggests the following genealogy "bucket list" items:

- **Research At the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah** – this is considered the "mecca" for genealogical research. Over 2.4 million reels of microfilm are at your fingertips. There is so much more than what you can order as a microfilm from a home location. You can do so much more research in a short time when the material is so readily available. No waiting for costly films to come to your local FHC that you rent. There is a staff of experts on site to help with your research, especially if you are need of language help for translations. This may definitely be a bucket list item for you to consider. Look for information about the library at <https://familysearch.org/locations/saltlakecity-library>.
- **Visit An Ancestor's Homeland** – this may be the ultimate reward for all of your hard genealogical research efforts. There is an indescribable bonding relation that takes place when you can walk the same land of your ancestors. It does not have to be viewed as only international travel to a foreign land to bond with ancestral lands of your ancestors. If you live in Chicago and you have Chicago ancestors, it can be as simple as seeing the home of an ancestor that is still in existence. Perhaps they lived there 100 years ago. It is still a touching experience to feel the connection to a place your ancestors once walked. Discover the evolving Heritage Tours that are occurring

today that will get you to the land of your ancestors. Check out Fodor's blog at www.fodors.com/news.stroy_5243.html.

- **Attend A National Conference** – yes, this is still a great experience. If you think a local program or a local annual conference is big and exciting, try on a national genealogical conference. Attendance at these conferences can be in the 1,500 to 2,000 attendee level. Large expos centers are filled with vendors selling all kinds of good genealogical things. There might be over 100 world renowned speakers knowledgeable in great depth about genealogical matters. You may very well be in a city you have never visited before so you are experiencing new sites and sounds outside of your normal living area. Large-scale conferences in the United states are sponsored by the National Genealogical Society (www.ngsgenealogy.org) and the Federation of Genealogical Societies (www.fgs.org) .
- **Knock Down A Pesky Brick Wall** – yes, we all have these in our genealogical research. Sometimes, it is just what it is. It does not mean you are not a good genealogist. It simply means that the “genealogy gods” have simply stymied you in problem resolution for a particular ancestor. Don't keep beating your head against a wall. Hire a professional for assistance. Revisit your research. What do you still have to research that you have not yet completed. Get on Facebook (www.facebook.com) and Twitter (www.twitter.com) and post your dilemma. Maybe those unknown cousins will become visible and they may know that one piece of information that will knock down your brick wall.
- **Publish Your Research** – so you are now done with your research. Convert your research into some form of a published material. Write a Family History book about your families. Self-publish it at Lulu.com at www.lulu.com. Publish it with a publisher. Create a website of your research and place the material there. Write a blog about all of your discoveries and your family history. Share your family history research with all of your cousins via a CD or DVD that contains your family tree information you put together in a lineage program. Make copies of your papers and share those printed copies with your cousin. Just be sure it is organized in a meaningful way for them to understand.

I thought this was a very good article. There is much more in the article itself than I could summarize above. You may want to check out the entire article within this journal. I like the idea of a “bucket list” for those wishful things you want to do before you leave this earth. The author really hit a homerun on the items mentioned in the article. They are not your everyday genealogy items. This is what makes them special for a “bucket list”. Challenging and unique items are what mainly should appear on your own “bucket list”.

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Handout #10 – US FEDERAL POPULATION SCHEDULES: 1790 TO 1840

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the November/December 2012, Volume 17, Number 2 issue of Family Chronicle.

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled "US Federal Population Schedules: 1790 to 1840". The author of this article is Jana Broglin.

Today our focus has been on the just recently released 1940 census and all of the data that is contained in it. Many questions were asked, many answers provided. Names were provided. Relationships were indicated. Places of birth were noted. Occupations were noted. As researchers it is important for us to know that the 1940 census is unique and each census is unique and different from each other as to what was asked. All of us like that so much for the 1940 census was transcribed and indexed and made available online in an incredibly short time for us to search using surnames.

The researcher should be aware of the uniqueness of the early censuses taken in the United States. For many of us using the early censuses can be disappointing trying to hunt back to the early censuses of 1790 to 1840.

Instantly we become aware that during these censuses only one actual full name of a household was captured. That name was the one for the "Head of Household". A household during this 1790 to 1840 time period might have had 12 people living in it. Generally a husband and wife and children would be dominant. But it could also have been a husband, a wife, a child, parent's of the husband or the wife, children of the husband's brother or children of the wife's sister. Hired help could also have been included. Yet this data was only shown as a tabulation of a person, male or female, with certain categories of ages. We also do not know from these early census returns what the relationship was between the Head of Household, and all of the other people in the household. All of those details did not start appearing until 1850 but it wasn't until 1880 that we now knew what the relationships were between household members.

The author does a good job in describing all of the unique items of the 1790 through 1840 census.

Our country had slavery during these early census years. Early on, only "free, white males and their households" were included in the census data. Numbers of slaves were just noted as a number.

Many of the early censuses for 1790 have been lost. The schedules are lost for Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey and Virginia. Re-creations of the data in these censuses have been made using state enumerations and tax lists from previous years.

One could say that the most important value of the 1790 census was to identify military resources by identifying the numbers that fit the age group associated with military service at the time.

Reconstructed data for this census is available online today at many sources.

The author noted that the 1800 and 1810 censuses began to identify the county of location, parish, township, town or city where the household lived. The age groupings of the household members differed in comparison to 1790. The actual schedules of a variety of states are also missing for the censuses of these two time periods.

1820 saw the same age groupings with the inclusion of the 16 to 18 year old category for males. Another category was that of slaves and free colored. Number of foreigners not naturalized was also included in this one.

1830 saw the inclusion of an age category of "over 100". Information was also added about determining those that were "deaf, dumb or blind".

1840 saw the question being asked intended for Revolutionary War veterans receiving pension of their age. As a result of this information a standalone book titled ***A Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Services; with Their Names, Ages and Places of Residence ...Under the Act for Taking the Sixth Census.*** The book has an every name index which can allow you to research any ancestral connection you may have to the Revolutionary War based on data captured in 1840.

All in all, this is a very good article that does shed light on the early censuses. We simply take for granted all the data that exists in the current census years. Our early census year data can make research challenging for finding out more than just information about the head of household. Some of us may not have even interacted with these early census returns because our ancestors may have come to the United States many years later the 1790 to 1840 census years.

Ultimately, our research may get us into the early 1790 to 1840 census years through other branches of our research. So it is good to know what you will face as you research into these early census returns.

Like with any census research and data, the validity of what was provided is not guaranteed. Misunderstanding and miscommunication and lying took place during these census years as with any census year's data. So the researcher will find the same kind of conflicting information within these census years.

To find out even more about this topic, I would definitely recommend reading the entirety of this article. The author provided much, much more than what I have even summarized above.

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