



HANDOUTS TABLE OF CONTENTS January 8, 2013

<u>Handout Introduction</u>	Page 2
<u>Schaumburg Township District Library (STDL) Genealogy Blog</u>	Page 4
<u>Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists (NWSCG) Program for February 2, 2013</u>	Page 5
<u>DuPage County Genealogical Society (DCGS) Program for January 16, 2013</u>	Page 6
<u>Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois (CAGGNI) January 19, 2013 Program</u>	Page 7
<u>Schaumburg Township District Library (STDL) February 12, 2013 Genealogy Program</u>	Page 9
<u>Family Tree Capability Coming Soon To FamilySearch</u>	Page 10
<u>Ancestry.com Launches New Newspaper.com Subscribable Service</u>	Page 13
<u>VuPoint Solutions Magic Wand With Auto Scanner Review</u>	Page 17
<u>"Using Technology To Prepare For A Research Trip"</u>	Page 20
<u>"Is There An Ancestor In The House? Or Senate?"</u>	Page 23

January 8, 2013 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our January 8, 2013 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 FEBRUARY 2, 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, February 2, 2013. The program for the morning is titled **"Cemetery Records"**. The speaker for the morning will be Tina Beaird.

Tina Beaird is the Genealogy/Local History Librarian at the Plainfield Public Library. She holds a Master's degree in Library and Information Science with a specialization in Archives/Preservation from Dominican University in River Forest, IL. She was Archivist and Governing Board member of the Illinois State Genealogical Society from 2004-2010. She is a member of the Society of American Archivists and the American Library Association. Tina has lectured on topics including genealogical research, photo restoration and archival preservation at national, state and local conferences. Tina has been researching her own family tree for over twenty years and has offered profession assistance to researchers for over 10 years.

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 FEBRUARY 12, 2013

The program for our February 12, 2013 program is titled **“Engaging the Next Generation: Parents and Grandparents Teaching Children about Family History”**. Our guest speaker for this 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.

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 – FAMILY TREE CAPABILITY SOON TO BE COMING TO FAMILYSEARCH

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated November 26, 2012.

The FamilySearch Blog has an article by Steve Anderson that says (in part), "Within the next few months, FamilySearch will make Family Tree available to everyone on its website. The first of many updates planned for FamilySearch.org, Family Tree will provide a free and engaging way to discover, preserve, and share your family history. Family Tree will also offer specialized tools to make temple work for your ancestors even easier and more convenient."

"Family Tree will enable you to:

- "Save family information into a genealogy tree
- Easily submit the names of ancestors for temple work
- Edit and delete incorrect data, including relationships
- Connect and collaborate with others on shared family lines
- Show where information came from. You can even link to online photos and documents"

You can read more at <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/family-tree-service-familysearchorg-coming/>.

You also may want to view a rather nice video, *Introduction to Family Tree*, available at <http://goo.gl/v9xA1>. I was especially interested in the comments saying that you will be able to link your online data to online sites (presumably both inside and outside of FamilySearch.org) to serve as source citations to provide verification of your records.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Uploading family tree information is the very hot topic of genealogy for some time. Some services already exist for you to do this. Ancestry.com has had the service for quite a bit of time. But with Ancestry.com you need to be subscribed to them in order to have the capability to use the service. That could mean an investment of upwards of \$300 if you became a full-bodied user of the all of the databases on the site.

This new service coming from FamilySearch will allow you to do similar uploading but it will be now and will always be for FREE! That is the commitment of FamilySearch to the genealogy community. You can already see more and more data being made available at FamilySearch. Soon you will be able to upload your research data and share and connect with fellow researchers sharing the same individual family research as yourself.

Key capabilities mentioned in the link above are indicated as:

Family Tree will enable you to:

- Save family information into a genealogy tree
- Easily submit the names of ancestors for temple work
- Edit and delete incorrect data, including relationships
- Connect and collaborate with others on shared family lines
- Show where information came from. You can even link to online photos and documents

There is also a link above to a nice short 2 minute and 19 second video that itemizes all of the things this new upcoming feature will be able to provide. I recommend viewing the video. It is cute and informative.

Many complaints researchers have about other uploading family tree services is that these may almost seem to be impossible to correct. Oftentimes gobs of information are uploaded by someone who simply has not been a good researcher with the data. They perhaps just uploaded "word of mouth" stories that lack any detailed evidence and citation of sources for the information. The new "Family Tree" functionality of FamilySearch implies that corrections and citation of evidence will be much easier to be done.

When you read about this new feature, you will often be exposed to the term "Ordinance" uploading. It is a term associated with the actual Mormon religious belief for those members to allow them to upload their research data in a prescribed manner. For non-Mormons that process has no connection to a non-Mormon method for uploading. Be aware of the term but do not feel you as a non-Mormon are required to upload your data in the same manner as Mormons would following their "Ordinance" guidelines.

Maureen Brady, our genealogy program speaker for the November 13, 2012 program, described this new evolving process that is unfolding before our eyes. It is not yet completely available. Snippets of the new process are being added frequently. The process is not yet fully ready. Maureen did indicate that the Mormons often like to make you aware of a new process that is coming but they do not often provide a target date for the new feature for fear of not being able to actually meet the date. So be patient, a new process is coming that does not have a target date associated with it.

Maureen even shared with us a link that would allow us to trial the beta version of these new developments. She did mention that in order to use this "beta" capability you will need to be registered with FamilySearch. If you have been an indexer you are already registered. So if you are not registered with FamilySearch it would be a good idea to take care of that first before you take a look at the new Family Tree capability.

The link provided by Maureen to view and trial this new process is at:

www.familysearch.org/invite/familytree_tab

This new process is something for all of us to look forward to especially if we would like to consider an alternative to Ancestry.com and other sites that allow the uploading of family trees.

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Handout #7 – ANCESTRY.COM LAUNCHES NEW NEWSPAPER.COM SUBSCRIBABLE SERVICE

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

This should be interesting! Ancestry.com has a major new offering. The following was written by Ancestry.com:

Online Newspaper Web Site Offers a High-Quality Collection of Digitized and Completely Searchable U.S. Newspapers Dating Back Centuries

(PROVO, Utah) – November 29, 2012 – Ancestry.com Inc. (Nasdaq: ACOM), the world's largest online family history resource, today announced the launch of Newspapers.com, a powerful and affordable new web site designed to offer a historically rich collection of more than 800 U.S. newspapers dating from the late 1700s into the early 2000s.

Comprising more than 25 million pages, Newspapers.com offers a trove of historical and present-day newspapers ranging from the New York Times to treasured small town and local newspapers throughout the United States.

Interested users will find centuries of amazing [news articles](#) and photos now captured online when browsing hundreds of years of breaking news headlines, searching for information about an ancestor or reading how the media addressed moments in history like the day Charles A. Lindbergh flew over the Atlantic, the opening of Disneyland or news from the fronts during World War I and World War II.

"We're extremely excited about the launch of Newspapers.com because it offers historical value for people of all ages and areas of interest," said Brian Hansen, General Manager of Newspapers.com. "Searching newspapers is like searching the Facebook footprint of the past. Not only can you find information on births, marriages and deaths, but you can also get a glimpse into what life was like during a specific era. We hope our users have fun making their own discoveries in this great newspaper collection that will continue to grow over time."

The search capabilities on Newspapers.com are specifically designed for newspapers enabling users to easily search by keywords, location, time period and newspaper name. From the 1784 Newport Mercury newspaper to a 2009 edition of The Gettysburg Times, users may find old advertisements or job listings, laugh at comics, retrieve family history clues or learn about famous events through the eyes and words of the time period.

The user experience is also enhanced by an image viewer that serves up crisp, high-quality images of the newspapers. Once discovered, newspaper images can easily be clipped, saved and shared via social outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Google+.

Within this growing [newspaper collection](#) are a myriad photos and stories that provide unique perspective on history. Examples include:

- **Abraham Lincoln** – Abraham Lincoln's death is noted as "Our Great Loss" in the April 16, 1865 edition of the New York Times
- **Interesting People** – The first baby picture of John Jacob Astor VI, whose father perished on the Titanic, is posted among other photos including one of Andrew Carnegie in the 1914 New York Times section labeled "Interesting People Seen Through the Camera's Eye"
- **Price Changes** – See how costs have changed over time, for example the New York Times cost one cent back in 1852, a paper that today costs \$2.50 for its weekday edition
- **Marilyn Monroe** – A Parade article featuring an exclusive interview with Marilyn Monroe in 1952 talked about how the famous actress saw herself
- **Man on the Moon** – In 1969, the first U.S. astronaut on the moon as highlighted in the Iowa Estherville Daily News
- **St. Valentine's Day Massacre** – The day after the 1929 St. Valentine's Day massacre in Chicago, articles all across America followed the story including The Daily Independent

In addition to the historical view this newspaper collection provides, it also peers into the pop culture of American history. Learn about Lita Grey's marriage to Charlie Chaplin on November 24, 1924 in the *Ohio Zanesville Times Signal*. Skim vintage advertisements, such as those by Sears, offering customers the opportunity to trade in old tires for a credit toward new ones in a 1952 advertisement in the *Arizona Sun Times*. Read your favorite comic strip from years ago, like Peanuts, Hi and Lois and even a 1947 Lil' Abner comic strip where Daisy Mae laments not being a comic strip character.

Newspapers.com provides an affordable glimpse into the past with a yearly subscription rate of \$79.95 for subscribers and \$39.95 for Ancestry.com or Fold3.com members. Newspapers.com also offers a 7-day free trial that can be activated at www.newspapers.com.

About Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com Inc. (Nasdaq: ACOM) is the world's largest online family history resource, with approximately 2 million paying subscribers. More than 11 billion records have been added to the site in the past 16 years. Ancestry users have created more than 41 million family trees containing more than 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.

Forward Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated by these forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements include the benefits we expect subscribers to obtain from the Newspapers.com collection and our ability to grow the collection. Risks and uncertainties include our inability to attract subscribers; our ability to satisfy customer's expectations as to the content of the collection, now and in the future; and our ability to make the products and services easy to use. Information concerning additional factors that could cause results to differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements is contained under the caption "Risk Factors" in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2012, and in discussions in other of our SEC

filings. These forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as representing our views as of any subsequent date and we assume no obligation to publicly update or revise these forward-looking statements for any reason, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Ancestry.com is not sitting on their laurels! No business succeeds by doing so for any lengthy period of time. Ancestry.com now is offering a brand new service providing access to 25 million pages of digitized newspaper data. This is a different approach from Ancestry.com. In the past by just being a subscriber you became a beneficiary of that subscription as new databases were added. You did not necessarily pay more for the added data. In this case, it appears that Ancestry.com is developing a completely new subscribable product. The newspaper data is not being added into the existing series of databases offered by Ancestry.com. If you want to access this data you will need to subscribe to the product itself. If you are an Ancestry.com subscriber you can subscribe to this and pay \$39.95 per year for this service. That is an additional \$39.95 over and above your basic subscription costs to Ancestry.com. If you are currently a non-subscriber to Ancestry.com, you can subscribe to this new product for the total of \$79.95 per year.

There is a "free" 7 day trial being offered by Ancestry.com for this new Newspaper offering. Ancestry.com always has available these "free" trials for you to determine if a subscription is worth your money.

Maybe this is how Ancestry.com will be tweaking the subscription costs for its services. In the past the "newspaper" databases may have just been added to the pool of all the other databases available to subscribers for the subscription cost already incurred. Now this is like an "ala carte" additional service for an additional cost to the subscriber. Remember, Ancestry.com was purchased by another investor company in the last 3 months. This could be the beginning of a "new" pricing arrangement for the data offered by Ancestry.com.

Our library offers a competing database from Genealogy Bank that includes digitized newspapers. Our library also offers another competing database of newspaper data from Newspaper ARCHIVE.com. Anyone coming into our library can use these databases for free. If you are a Schaumburg Township District Library cardholder, you can access these databases from home as being a user of our library. So there are alternatives. You just need to look at the newspapers included within these various offerings and the years covered to see if a particular newspaper of interest to your research is available either from a "subscribable" service or as part of databases offered by our library or your own library if STDL is not your library.

Newspaper research should always be part of your basic ancestral research. Accessing digitized data makes your research even easier than it has ever been. The digitization process generally creates an all-word index allowing the researcher to enter a search term and get instant results. The search term is generally a surname or both first and last name together.

I strongly suggest you visit the web site noted above and take a good look at the "Browse" feature. This will allow you to determine what newspapers are associated with what geographic areas that may be of interest to your research. You are

presented with the high level "United States" first. Then you can select a state like "Illinois". Then you will see a list of the towns for "Illinois" from which you can select. If you select "Chicago" you will see 4 newspapers. None of them are the Chicago Tribune or Chicago Sun-Times. You will see the "Southend Reporter" (Only for 1976, 1977), The Daily Herald (for 1986 to 2006 with many significant gaps), The News (for 1962, 1964 and 1968) and The Chicago Daily News (For one day only in 1879).

So you can see there are severe restrictions of what is actually included. The restrictions may reflect all that is only available for an Ancestry.com to digitize. But for the researcher you need to take a deep breath and realize there may be very minimal data for you to access for a newspaper in the area of your ancestors. So do not get too excited too fast if you see a newspaper for an area of interest. You may be disappointed to discover only one year for that paper and that year may have no connection to the time when your ancestors were there.

At least you now know of a new offering by Ancestry.com. Check out the website noted above for this offering. Learn all that you can from what is presented there. Consider the 7 day free trial if there is potential data of interest to you. But from my example above, be prepared to discover large gaps in what newspaper dates may be available to you.

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Handout #8 – VUPOINT SOLUTIONS MAGIC WAND WITH AUTOFEED DOCK PDS-ST450-VP

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated December 20, 2012.

Genealogists use handheld scanners more often than almost any other group I can think of. We scan documents at the local courthouse, old newspaper articles at the library, and photos while visiting a cousin's house. One of the more popular handheld scanners for genealogists is the VuPoint "Magic Wand." I own one and use it frequently. You can see my earlier articles about the VuPoint Magic Wand if you start at <http://goo.gl/A4cwM>.

I noticed today that M. David Stone has written a review of the brand-new VuPoint Solutions Magic Wand with AutoFeed Dock PDS-ST450-VP. This unit consists of two pieces: the first looks almost identical to the older Magic Wand handheld scanner but the second box is a dock that turns the first device into a manual-feed scanner.



This new device will allow the user to operate the 6.3 ounce handheld device separately (without the dock) as a normal handheld scanner. In addition, it becomes a manual-feed scanner when you mount it in its 1.4 pound dock. In both cases, the scanner works alone with no computer attached. All scanned images are stored in a small, plug-in memory card. You can later copy the newly-scanned images to any Windows, Macintosh, or Linux computer by removing the memory card from the scanner and plugging it into the computer (if it has a slot for a memory card) or into an adapter that plugs into the computer (if there is no built-in memory card slot in the computer).

You can read the review of the brand-new VuPoint Solutions Magic Wand with AutoFeed Dock PDS-ST450-VP in PCMag.com's web site at <http://goo.gl/AW3d6>.

The VuPoint Solutions Magic Wand with AutoFeed Dock PDS-ST450-VP costs \$159.95 at Amazon.com.

Comments by Tony Kierna

These devices are looking more and more attractive to consider to own as a resource to capture those major documents, pictures etc. related to your genealogical research. Most of the devices I have notice previously have been strictly "wand" devices that you move over the document you want to scan. This "wand" now comes with a dock that allows you to feed a loose page through it to obtain your scan. I like that idea when you can take advantage of a loose page or even for those fantastic loose photos we all have in our family collections.

You do not need this device to be hooked up to a computer. That is nice for the convenience of portability. The bad part of that is that you cannot immediately see an image of your scan to judge its viewability for later use. If you can get access to the documents again that you are trying to scan you can always have a "redo" once you examine your images. So that may not be a problem for you. The scanned images are stored on an SD Memory card on the device. Theoretically, you could have your laptop with you and check the images by viewing the SD card on the laptop to ensure your images are all good before you ended your scanning process.

One small drawback mentioned by the reviewer is that the purchased product does not even come with a "starter" SD memory card. So you cannot use it right out of the box unless you already have a chip of your own to use. This may not be a problem for many of us who may already have a collection of memory chips but it is good to be aware of should you intend to make a purchase of the device. It uses a micro SD or micro SDHC chip.

You can adjust the scan resolution in a variety of ways if you are using it as a free standing wand scanner or in the cradle. As a free standing wand scanner, you can set resolutions of 300, 600, or 900 in color or grayscale. In the cradle you can set the resolution to 300, 600 or 1200. The higher the resolution the better your scanned image, especially if you are going to blow up the image or need to catch minute detail.

The device also comes with the software that allows you to use the scanner as an Optical Character Reader (OCR), meaning it will read the text of a document that is typed or printed and will create a scanned image of that allowing you to work with the words as in a Microsoft Word document. If you have a multi-page document the scanner can turn the multiple pages of text into one PDF document instead of just keeping individual pages.

Take a look at the full review of this device from the above link. The reviewer also provides information in comparison on some other similar devices. Maybe you have been waiting to get one of these devices so you can have a wand scanner with you when you visit cousins. It sure sounds like a good device with plenty of capabilities, especially being able to set it up so you can feed your pages through it for scanning automatically.

The author notes you can get this device for \$159.95 at Amazon.com.

Maybe your waiting is over. The portability aspects of the device are proven and now having the auto-feed may be the nice additive for you to consider a purchase. The review sounded good so maybe this is the device for you.

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Handout #9 – USING TECHNOLOGY TO PREPARE FOR A RESEARCH TRIP

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the October – December 2012, Volume 38, Number 4 issue of NGS Magazine.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “Using Technology to Prepare for A Research Trip”. The author of the article is Jordan Jones.

Are you planning on taking a genealogy trip to a research facility, library or archive? Traveling can be challenging all unto itself. Travel by car at least allows you to be able to take “bonus” and “extra” items with that you can stow away in the car. Travel by air is much more challenging with space limitations and just the physical challenge of carrying lots of stuff both to and from the airport.

The author notes that technology today can certainly help you minimize all of the “stuff” you want to cart around. Electronic equipment is today both smaller in size, lighter in weight and yet even more powerful than traditional desktop equipment.

Here are some points of interest that we should take into consideration with our technological equipment we definitely want with us on research trips:

Lightweight Computers

Most of us probably have a laptop computer. For some the laptop computer has in essence replaced our desktop computers because we have portability not only within our house but also the ability to pack up a laptop and take it with us on our research trips. The author notes that today there is a subgroup of laptops often known as “ultralights” that often weigh half as much as laptops of 3 or 4 years ago. Some laptops can weigh in at 5 or even 6 pounds. If you try carrying that laptop along as well as all the supporting cables, mouse etc. you will soon find that what sounds like a small weight will really tire you out soon when you have to carry that around.

Today’s laptops offer you the chance to actually buy one that now weigh-in at 4 pounds. One pound difference can make a substantial weight difference when you carry it around. The “ultralights” are remarkably even smaller in weight. Some by Apple weigh in at about 2.38 pounds for an 11 inch screen version with no hard-drive but with a solid state drive and no DVD burning or viewing capability.

Many of these ultralight laptops are still very pricey. Apple’s 11 inch ultralight clocks in at about \$999. If price is your main issue you may have to settle for a slightly heavier Windows version laptop that costs about \$399. If you have a 5 year old laptop, even a regular replacement laptop will be lighter than what you may have. But at least you now have a choice of incredibly very lightweight and extremely powerful laptops to choose from although at a little higher price than you may feel comfortable with.

Tablet Computers

Who hasn't heard of an iPad? In the case of Tablet computers, you still have two major Operating System players. You have Apple with its iOS Operating System. You also have Google with its Android Operating System.

These tablets are still considered powerful computing devices that are small in size and easy to hold and carry. Screen size runs from about 7 inches on the diagonal to about 10 inches. So you do not have nearly as much screen real estate in a Tablet as you do on a laptop (13 to 17 inches) or on a desktop (21 to 27 inches).

Internet access on these tablets is available via WiFi or Cellular. If you choose one with WiFi that will mean you will have Internet access only where you have a "Hot spot" of another WiFi network, as in your Public Library or you can default your WiFi access to your own home network. With Cellular service on these Tablets, you gain access to the Internet anywhere you can access cell phone towers for that provider. There is also a monthly "data" cost from the provider that covers the cost of you accessing the Internet. This can be fairly low (\$20 per month for 1 GB of data) or rather high if you are a heavy user of Internet data (\$50 per month for 5 GB of data). Once you leave your own WiFi home network environment and rely on Cellular access, your costs rise rapidly.

Tablets also are much smaller in solid state drive capacity. You may be able to have only the equivalent of 64 GB of storage directly on the device. Some come with memory slots you can use to store data. Most of the tablet manufacturers are steering users to the "cloud" where your data can be stored instead of on a hard drive. Once again, small amounts of storage may be available for free on the cloud, or you can have larger amounts for a monthly or annual charge.

The Tablets are powerful. Your genealogy research can easily be stored on these devices. They can take pictures and videos. Screens are often in ultra high resolution so that small text can easily be read. Pictures are incredibly crisp and beautiful.

A Tablet may be your "go-to" technology for your genealogy research trips.

Smart Phones

More and more of us are replacing our "dumb" cell phones that are really geared just for that, making and receiving calls, with "smart" phones that are in essence mini-computers in your hand that allow you to access and interact with the Internet anywhere you have a cell signal. At this time about 50% of cell phone users have "smart" phones. Of that amount using these "smart" phones, 80% are running Google Android or Apple iOS operating systems.

In the case of "smart" phones we are talking screen size real estate in the area of 3.5 inches on the diagonal to about 5 inches on the diagonal. Portability does have it's trade-off in screen size and readability. Combine the small screen size with "virtual" keyboards and you can see that you are not going to be able to easily do a lot of fast typing on these devices. You almost always have to type with one finger, hoping your large finger does not accidentally touch another key.

It truly feels that the purpose of a cell phone today is more for data access to the Internet and that voice conversations are just an afterthought. Why talk anymore when you can access FaceBook or Twitter and communicate that way. Why just talk

with words when you can Skype and have a video call at the same time or use FaceTime and routinely have video calls.

As you can see, we now have many choices to take along light weight technological tools on our genealogy research trips. Our data can always be with us on these devices or on the "cloud".

We also have other non-electronic tools to help us with our plans for a genealogy research trip. There are some wonderful online tools to help with planning. Consider using Google Maps (<http://maps.google.com>) to create a private or shared map about your destinations. You may be able to obtain visuals of the Courthouse or the cemetery you plan on visiting. Find your accommodations and even restaurants in the area you would like to visit.

Also consider some record gathering, note-taking, or task organization tools for your research trips. Consider using Evernote (www.evernote.com), Springpad (www.springpad.com), or One Note (www.microsoft.com/office/onenote) to make inventories of the records that you may want to find on your trip.

Do you like to make "To Do" lists? Consider using Wunderlist (www.wunderlist.com), or Things (<http://culturecode.com/things>) for the Mac or iOs, Astrid (<http://astrid.com>) on Android or iOS.

Use some of the above online tools to document your research. Note both successful discoveries and unsuccessful ones.

Lightweight, powerful computing tools are everywhere for you to purchase. Maybe some are more appropriate for you than others. Maybe you want all of it if you have unlimited funds to purchase all of it! But it is obvious the days of being tethered to an unmovable desktop are long gone for your computing power. You have many choices are varied price points to allow you to be completely portable when you are on your research trips. Don't forget to include the variety of data-keeping software to include on your portable devices so you can use that to document your research efforts.

Christmas is coming soon, so ask Santa for something noted above to enhance your offsite research trips.

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Handout #10 – IS THERE AN ANCESTOR IN THE HOUSE? OR THE SENATE?

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the October – December 2012, Volume 38, Number 4 issue of NGS Magazine.

I also thought that another interesting article in this issue is one titled “Is There an Ancestor in the House? Or the Senate?”. The author of the article is B. Darrell Jackson, Ph.D, CG.

You may be aware that genealogical research may uncover the not so good side of our ancestors. Perhaps you have discovered robbers, murderers, deserters or the like in your research. Some of you may cringe at these discoveries, others may relish the discovery. You decide yourself. The author notes in this article that perhaps you may discover the more famous ancestor in your research. Perhaps you may even discover that an ancestor has a connection to being a political figure and was even elected to a legislative body.

Discovering legislators in your ancestral trail may be uncommon but it is far from rare. After all, there are now 50 states of legislators as well as those federally elected legislators. Many legislators in years past may only have been elected for one or two terms and not “for life” as we seem to see more of today! So there may be a larger pool of past legislators over time than you actually think exists. Your ancestor may be one of them.

The author indicated he himself has discovered 10 ancestors in his research that were in fact legislators, some going back to colonial times.

You should also be aware that many of our famous political figures started their aspirations in their local state legislatures. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were in the Virginia House of Burgess. Abraham Lincoln was an Illinois legislator as was Franklin Delano Roosevelt in New York.

Legislative bodies produce their own kind of records. These are rarely widely distributed or read. But a paper trail can exist in volumes in these cases for legislators. The author suggests the researcher consider the following sources of documents to uncover information about an ancestor that may have been a legislator:

Legislative Journals

These journals contain the names of the members. Committee assignments, committee reports, voting records are key discoveries. You may be able to discover these resources from the actual Legislative Library for that state.

State Laws

Look for laws that may have been initiated by your legislator ancestor or the identify of the legislator as a co-sponsor. Look for these in law, history and university libraries.

Legislative Papers

Look for these in the state archive of interest. You may find other tidbits of information about the legislator that did not apply directly to any legislation, such as expense reports, bills that did not pass and various forms of communication. You might even find copies of amendments offered by your legislator that perhaps did not pass.

Newspaper Accounts

Early newspapers gave extensive coverage to legislative happenings. You might even find speeches given by your legislator. Look through the variety of online digitized newspaper data.

Official State Manuals

States often publish a volume listing state agencies and the people on staff. Photographs are often found here. You can often find quite a bit on the biographies of the legislators that are serving in that particular legislative session. In Illinois, look for a book called the "blue book". That may be a similar title for other states.

The author provided some lengthy examples of his own research. Discoveries were noted on what information was discovered about that particular legislator. A lengthy chronology of the time served in sessions can be discovered, with both descriptions of mundane activities and perhaps the involvement with major changes impacting the entire state or country.

For most of us we will probably discover nothing of a legislative connection with our ancestors. But for some, you may discover an incredible amount of detailed biographical information and legislative historical information on your ancestral legislator. So while there is the dark side of ancestors you may perhaps discover the very notable side of an ancestral legislator.

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