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## April 9, 2013 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our April 9, 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](http://www.schaumburglibrary.org). Select "Local History and Genealogy" at the top of the page, then look for the icon on the Local History and Genealogy page that says "Tony's Genealogy Blog". Open the blog link and then look at the right hand sidebar of the blog and you will see the "Handouts" information. The direct web address for the blog I author is <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Here we go with the list of "handouts"!

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**Handout #1 – VISIT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY GENEALOGY BLOG**

I will continue to remind participants of our library’s new genealogy blog. You can access it through our library home page at [www.SchaumburgLibrary.org](http://www.SchaumburgLibrary.org) by scrolling across the top of the first page and look for the tab that says “Local History and Genealogy”. Click on that tab and look on the right side for our library genealogy blog on the right side that says “Tony’s Genealogy Blog”.

Or you can just go directly to the blog at:

<http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

You will find postings on upcoming programs, both at our library, and elsewhere in the area. You will also find a myriad of other kinds of postings, especially those that I offer on “Genealogy Tips” to help make your research efforts more productive.

You will also find our Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Newsletter and our “Program Handouts” at the blog as PDF files for you to view online, or download and save to your own computer for future referral.

Please remember that the blog will be the place to retrieve the newsletter and the “handouts”. I do not plan on making paper handouts of these available for distribution at the program or for mailing to individuals.

Try to visit the blog frequently to see what is going on. Subscribe to the blog via RSS (Really Simple Syndication) and you will receive notices when a new post or comment has been made at the blog. Or, just click on the WordPress icon in the lower right part of your screen that simply states “Follow”. By clicking on the “Follow” link you will subscribe to the blog and will receive follow-up e-mail notices when I publish a new post.

Our blog is the way of the future and the future is here now!

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**Handout #2 – NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COUNCIL OF GENEALOGISTS ON MAY 4, 2013**

**THE SOCIETY WILL BE MEETING ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH STARTING AT 10:00 AM AT THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SENIOR CENTER LOCATED AT 1801 WEST CENTRAL ROAD IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS. THERE IS A 30 MINUTE ROUND-TABLE HELP SESSION THAT STARTS AT 9:30 AM PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL PROGRAM.**

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists will take place on Saturday morning, May 4, 2013. The program for the morning is titled **“Medical DNA”**. The speaker for the morning will be Dan Marsha Peterson-Maass.

Meetings are held at the Arlington Heights Senior Center at 1801 West Central Road in Arlington Heights. They begin at 10:00 AM with a Round-Table discussion/mingling time starting at 9:30 AM. They encourage people to bring their research problems, achievements or interesting tips to share with each other during the time prior to the program start. **The main portion of the meeting begins promptly at 10:00 AM.** Donations are always welcome! Coffee is available to attendees for a charge.

You may visit the society web page at for any further details on the program as well as on the society:

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

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**Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT  
REGULAR SOCIETY PROGRAM ON APRIL 17, 2013**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, April 17, 2013. The program scheduled for that evening is **“Lost Children: Orphans, Vagrants, Delinquents, Half-Orphans, Dependents, Surrendered, Adopted”**. The speaker for the program will be Jeanne Larzalere Bloom.

As the views of society toward children evolved, the types of records and where these records might be located changed.

Jeanne Larzalere Bloom, CG(SM) is a full-time professional researcher specializing in Illinois (particularly Cook County), problem solving, and compiling multi-generational family histories. As a case manager for the American History Company, she works for the Repatriation and Family Affairs Division of the Army Casualty and Memorial Affairs Operation to determine the Primary Next of Kin on to identify eligible family members that can provide Family Reference Samples (mtDNA) to aid in the possible identification of unaccounted for soldiers from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War of the soldier. Her other clients include authors, professional genealogists, heir-search firms, and family researchers in the United States and internationally. She is a member of NGS, BCG, APG, GSG, ISFHWE, is a multi-year alumnus of IGHS at Samford, and an alumnus of NIGR.

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

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**Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON APRIL 20, 2013 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY**

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, April 20, 2013 at the Schaumburg Township District Library starting at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"Off the Beaten Cyber Path"**. The speaker for the program will be Skip Bieber.

Hidden gems abound on the internet and not always where we most expect to find them. Join Skip Bieber and CAGGNI as Skip takes us on some unexpected twists and turns to several sites and apps that most of us are not familiar with. Give your research a boost with this informative and engaging session!

You may visit the organization web page to find out further information about this program and other future programs the society has on their schedule at:

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

Visit the group's web site noted above for information about this program as well as what CAGG-NI is all about.

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**Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON MAY 14, 2013**

Our guest speaker for our May 14, 2013 Genealogy Program is Sarah A. V. Kirby. Sarah will present a program titled **“Free Digital Books: More Than Just Google”**.

The speaker will provide an overview of some of the websites which have large collections of free digitized genealogy texts and how to use them. Also includes a few sites which index other sites.

When you cross an aerospace engineer (a.k.a. rocket scientist) with a teacher, librarian, and genealogist, you get a wide range of knowledge and a depth of experience rarely equaled. You also get complex topics explained in everyday language with enthusiasm and excellence. As a family historian, researcher, genealogist, and librarian, Sarah likes to talk about just about anything from basic to advanced topics. She is particularly adept at making obscure and under-utilized resources understood. She is both tech-savvy and fond of dusty archives and courthouses. She tends to focus her energy on topics that are unique. Many include demonstrations of internet resources.

Sarah obtained a PLCGS from NIGS in Genealogical Librarianship (PLCGS - Professional Learning Certificate in Genealogical Studies; NIGS - National Institute for Genealogical Studies) in 2009. Sarah has been researching her family since 1994 and has had a surname website since 1997. After obtaining her MLIS (Masters in Library and Information Science) in 2003, she began moving towards professional genealogy. She is currently a member of APG and NGS. She has been on the APG's Publications Advisory Committee since early 2007. She also hold memberships in IL State GS, NEHGS, NYGBS, Lake Co (IL) GS, and Detroit SGR. Her first career was as a NASA rocket scientist. Her BS is in Aerospace Engineering and she worked in Houston's Mission Control where she honed her public speaking skills.

You may visit the library's web page at:

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

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

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

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## Handout #6 – FAMILY TREE DNA UNVEILS \$39 DNA TEST

*The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated February 21, 2013.*

Prices continue to drop! The following announcement was written by Family Tree DNA:

**Family Tree DNA Unveils \$39 DNA Test in Major Step Toward Universal Access by Individuals to their Own Genetic Data**

The world's lowest cost genetic test offers an introduction to the insights and knowledge to be gained from personal genetic and genomic research



HOUSTON, Feb. 20, 2013 -- [FamilyTreeDNA.com](http://FamilyTreeDNA.com), the genetic genealogy arm of Gene By Gene, Ltd., is dramatically lowering the price of one of its basic Y-DNA tests to \$39, making it the lowest-cost DNA test available on the market, in order to take a major step toward universal access by individuals to their personal genetic data.

By dropping the price of its basic Y-DNA test by 60 percent to \$39, Family Tree DNA -- the world's largest processor of Y-DNA and full mitochondrial sequences -- is working to eliminate cost as a barrier to individuals introducing themselves to the insights and knowledge to be gained from personal genetic and genomic research.

Family Tree DNA pioneered the concept of direct-to-consumer testing in the field of genetic genealogy more than a decade ago, and has processed more than 5 million discrete tests for more than 700,000 individuals and organizations since it introduced its Y-DNA test in 2000.

The test investigates specific Y-DNA locations for males that provide individuals with their haplogroup, or the deep ancestral origin of the paternal line. In addition, it can indicate if different individuals are likely to share a common male line.

Gene By Gene is also working to lower the cost of Family Tree DNA's comparable mtDNA test, which would be applicable to both females and males and provides data on the direct maternal line. The company expects to unveil new pricing for this test in spring 2013.

As the sponsor DNA Workshop of "Who Do You Think You Are - Live" in London this February, Family Tree DNA expects that the reduced price test will add a great number of individuals to its already large database – the largest of its kind in the

world.

"We believe the first step to unearthing your personal and family history is to better understand your DNA," Gene By Gene President Bennett Greenspan said. "That's why we are continuously investing in new technology and experienced scientists at our Genomics Research Center, enabling us to conduct tests more accurately, efficiently and at lower prices. Our \$39 Y-DNA test is just the latest example of how we are working to help individuals gain access to their genetic data."

#### Customer Inquiries

Individuals interested in Family Tree DNA's \$39 Y-DNA test, or any of its ancestral testing products, can visit [www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com) for more information.

#### About Gene By Gene, Ltd.

Founded in 2000, [Gene By Gene, Ltd.](#) provides reliable DNA testing to a wide range of consumer and institutional customers through its four divisions focusing on ancestry, health, research and paternity. Gene By Gene provides DNA tests through its Family Tree DNA division, which pioneered the concept of direct-to-consumer testing in the field of genetic genealogy more than a decade ago. Gene by Gene is CLIA registered and through its clinical-health division [DNA Traits](#) offers regulated diagnostic tests. [DNA DTC](#) is the Research Use Only (RUO) division serving both direct-to-consumer and institutional clients worldwide. Gene By Gene offers AABB certified relationship tests through its paternity testing division, [DNA Findings](#). The privately held company is headquartered in Houston, which is also home to its state-of-the-art Genomics Research Center.

#### **Comments by Tony Kierna**

*Up until the above announcement, you could expect to easily pay \$129 and more for a basic DNA profile test using 12 markers. Even if there were a sale under that arrangement, perhaps the price was reduced to \$99. Prices of \$99 to \$129 are still steep entry points if you want to take the plunge and have your DNA done.*

*Another problem was even more under the radar than the above stated higher costs. You often want to get identified cousins to also take a DNA test as well as unconfirmed cousins to see how they may connect to you via DNA. But with higher entry level prices, you might not be able to convince them to spend \$99 to \$129 for the purposes of doing a DNA test.*

*I have spoken to many dedicated researchers who frequently offer to actually pay the fee for other cousins and "might be" cousins to take a DNA test. So while you may have bit the bullet and did take the plunge into DNA testing, having other possible relatives take the test also became a big stumbling block.*

*Now that Family Tree DNA is making what appears to be a completely revised price point, the entry level obstacle of high price does certainly appear to have been dramatically reduced. Wouldn't all of us like to hear about a 60% price reductions for all the things we have to purchase frequently! This new price does not appear to be a "sale price". It does appear to be the new entry level price to entice genealogy researchers to finally make the plunge into the world of DNA testing.*

Once you start becoming familiar with the methods, procedures and variety of testing that takes place in DNA analysis, **it is good to know upfront that this price reduction is on the bare minimum testing that is done.** Many researchers will discover that a 12 marker test is just getting your foot in the door. **There is testing that can be done that provides more and more specific refinements.** These refinements allow you to understand your connection to another individual. You will even see tests to cover 68 markers.

It is a complicated process that does require some reading from the web site of the company. **It does appear that the higher the cost for a DNA testing package, the more comprehensive the DNA results will be.**

But getting your foot in the door with a "basic" test is the goal for Family Tree DNA. \$39 is a remarkably lower price to start the process than \$99!

**You can always consider having further results presented to you by purchasing results for a higher level marker test.** You do not have to do another re-swab. Your initial swab results are sufficient for the company to give you a more refined DNA view. **You can incrementally do this over time by paying the money to cover the next analysis.** You can do this all up front if you want at a cost of \$300 to \$400 or even more. You can control how much analysis you want in return for how willing you are to pay more to advance to the next level of results.

That is not a bad idea.

**Visit the site above and spend some time really poring over all of the material they have, especially the FAQ.**

Encourage your known cousins to also take the plunge and submit their swab for analysis and entry into the growing database of DNA submitters with this company.

See who may match to that is already in the Family Tree DNA database. That can be the most fun part is to discover knew genetically similar "relatives" that perhaps you did not even know about. **If you don't test you will not have the possibility to discover these unknown "relatives".** Your results have to be in the database so that Family Tree DNA can tell you who you are a near-match to in their database.

Sounds like fun to me!!

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## Handout #7 – FAMILYSEARCH INDEXING APPROACHES 1 BILLION RECORDS COMPLETED BY VOLUNTEERS

*The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated March 19, 2013.*

The following announcement was written by FamilySearch:



Less than seven years after its initial launch, the internet-based FamilySearch indexing will celebrate the completion of its one billionth freely searchable record sometime in the next few weeks. Indexing is recording information from historical documents to make it searchable online. An army of volunteers from across the globe have contributed to the effort, currently indexing more than one million census, birth, marriage, death, immigration and other types of records daily from more than 60 countries so people all over the world can find their ancestors.

"We're impressed and amazed at what volunteers have accomplished in such a short amount of time," said Mike Judson, manager of Indexing Workforce Development for FamilySearch. "We believe there is potential to do the next billion much faster."

Various forms of indexing involving paper, microfilm and then CD-based copies of records have been ongoing since 1921. By 2005, diligent volunteers managed to transcribe between 800-900 million records. Since the launch of FamilySearch indexing online in September 2006, the number of indexed records has more than doubled.

"Reaching the billion mark is definitely a cause for celebration, but it is also a call to action," said Judson. "More people need to have the experience of finding their ancestors and discovering those connecting stories to their past. We all have parents, we all have grandparents, and universally I think we are all interested in who those people are and where they came from, which ultimately tells us about ourselves."

Judson explained that indexing is so widely successful, in part, because people from all walks of life have a common interest in helping ancestors who lived before to be remembered. While FamilySearch has 3.3 billion searchable names in its database, Judson noted that all it takes is one person indexing one name to create the possibility that someone will find an ancestor.

One such example is Kira Alsbury, a Utahn who recently attended a presentation on family history and indexing. She became particularly interested in researching her mother's side of the family, which came from Venezuela. Alsbury thought she might have to learn Spanish or go Venezuela to do her genealogical research, but she was

very surprised when she found that volunteer indexers on FamilySearch had already indexed more than 600,000 vital records from Merida, Venezuela. With one quick search, Alsbury was able to find her maternal grandfather's christening record and to begin uncovering her maternal family line.

"I'm really grateful to have that connection and to learn about these people because they're my family, whether or not they're alive," said Alsbury. "I found family names that I never knew before. It's a miracle and a blessing to get that stronger sense of the foundation of our family and where we came from."

### **Massive Undertaking**

More than 263 million records were indexed by volunteers and published in 2012. With FamilySearch indexing's double-entry method that means those 263 million records were actually indexed twice, and most were reviewed by a third indexer known as an arbitrator, totaling nearly 900 million separate indexing tasks that were performed by volunteers in a single year.

In 2012, the 1940 US Census Community Project, a joint effort between FamilySearch and several commercial and non-commercial entities, was an unprecedented success with more than 184,000 volunteers working together to index and arbitrate 132 million records in just over four months. This project demonstrated not only the power of the online community but also the level of interest that exists for being able to search and make ancestral discoveries from historical records.

Volunteers are currently working on more than 100 active indexing projects online. Two of the largest are the [US Immigration and Naturalization Community Project](#) and the [Italian Ancestors Project](#).

To learn more about indexing or to become a volunteer, visit [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org).

### **Comments by Tony Kierna**

*Completing nearly 1 billion items in such a relatively short period of time is a testament to the dedication of the thousands of volunteers that give their time willingly to add to searchable databases.*

*Each and every day that you access FamilySearch, you should tip your hat and say a big "thank you" to the thousands of anonymous indexers that make it possible for you to make discoveries on your own ancestors.*

*Literally, the massive indexing projects just started only 7 years ago and we are now celebrating the near completion of 1 billion records.*

*I am an indexer myself. I am not as active lately as I was about 2 years ago. It is easy to do (for most transcriptions!). It is easy to become an indexer. You can select from the various projects that exist through FamilySearch to begin your indexing. It is easy to learn. There are plenty of Learning Aids from FamilySearch as well as from indexers from around the world.*

*You will find yourself becoming addicted to doing these indexing projects. You will find yourself becoming very knowledgeable about records in general and about being able to read them thoroughly and accurately. You will feel a great sense of accomplishment when you finish a batch. You can expect to receive feedback on a measurement of your transcription skills. We may all start out not doing so well, but after a little practice and effort, you will be cranking out transcribed items quickly and correctly.*

*Also think of your familiarity with records of your ancestors you are researching. Perhaps you have become more familiar with naming conventions of that ethnicity. If a file of that language's records is available to transcribe, you might be the perfect candidate to do that work.*

*Results from FamilySearch Indexing should be as accurate as possible because indexing is a 3 level process. You transcribe a batch of records. Another indexer transcribes the same batch. Finally, an "arbitrator" compares the results of the 2 indexers and makes the determination of what is the most accurate transcription. Other transcription projects do not have the multiplicity of indexers and arbitrators to produce the best results.*

*If you ever thought about doing this kind of volunteer work, now is the time. You will feel a great sense of accomplishment and a great sense of contribution.*

*Check out the FamilySearch site for indexing at:*

<https://www.familysearch.org/volunteer/indexing>

*The records don't enter the databases by magic. Someone has to look at actual records and transcribe the data. That next someone could be you! Give it a try.*

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## Handout #8 – FAMILYTREEWEBINARS OFFERS 136 HOURS OF ONLINE GENEALOGY CLASSES

*The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated March 5, 2013.*

The following announcement was written by [FamilyTreeWebinars.com](http://FamilyTreeWebinars.com), a division of Legacy Family Tree:

New Annual/Monthly Webinar Memberships Provide Anytime-Access to Entire Webinar Archives and Instructors' Handouts

Genealogists and family historians can now have anytime, anywhere and unlimited access to the nearly 100 recorded genealogy webinars and more than 350 pages of instructors' handouts that have been part of the Legacy Family Tree Webinar series with their new website at [www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com](http://www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com).

Access to the complete archives (over 136 hours of classes) is now available through an annual or monthly Webinar Membership at the introductory price of \$49.95 (annually) or \$9.95 (monthly). Watching the live, weekly webinars continues to be free (36 more are scheduled in 2013), and visitors are free to view recordings for one week after a live presentation. For Webinar Members, new recordings and handouts will be added monthly at no extra cost.

A leader in online genealogy education, the Legacy Family Tree Webinar series has been attended by researchers in more than 100 countries. "I'm excited to bring quality genealogy education into the homes of genealogists world-wide," said Legacy Family Tree Webinars host, Geoff Rasmussen. "Genealogists from the most remote parts of the world have been able to learn from some of genealogy's finest instructors because of these webinars. It's been fun to help pioneer this technology for our industry."

FamilyTreeWebinars.com currently features 36 of genealogy's leading educators including Megan Smolenyak, Thomas MacEntee, Barbara Renick, DearMYRTLE, Marian Pierre-Louis, Maureen Taylor, Geoff Rasmussen, Lisa Alzo, and Karen Clifford. [Click here](#) for the complete list. Subjects include:

- Google
- Organization
- Photographs & Digital Images
- Researching in United States, Canada, Ireland, Scotland, England, Germany, Eastern Europe
- Brick Wall Solutions
- DNA
- Genealogy Technology
- [Many more](#)

Register for upcoming webinars for free.

[Click here](#) to register for future webinars.

### Become a Webinar Member

**Annual Memberships – introductory price of \$49.95/year** – complete access to webinar archives and handouts for one year

**Monthly Memberships – introductory price of \$9.95/month** – complete access to webinar archives and handouts for one month.

[Click here](#) to subscribe.

### **Comments by Tony Kierna**

*I am a very big believer in online genealogy programs. What a great way to increase your working knowledge on a topic that connects with your own research interests.*

*If you can set aside the time to participate in a “live” webinar, the cost is a big \$0. Participation in the live programs is free. Webinars appear to be scheduled for live production about once per week. Webinars that are “live” appear to occur at 2 PM Eastern, 1 PM Central, Noon Mountain, 11 AM Pacific and 6 PM Greenwich Mean Time. Most of the live webinars occur on a Wednesday, some occur on a Friday. I began listening to the most recent “free” webinar produced on March 13, 2013 (Today is March 19<sup>th</sup>). I could not see any video but the sound was there. That must be how they do the “free” up to a week after the original showing. The “host” of the show indicated that there were approximately 1,200 “live” participants on the show! WOW! So, the live webinars are a big thing!!*

*I, for one, gravitate more to the “archived” versions of these webinars because it allows me to pick and choose material to view/listen to when I am in the mood for it.*

*Obviously, there is a price to pay for accessing 138 hours of wonderful learning tools on your time rather than on a scheduled “live” production day when it is for free.*

*So here is your choice, be calendar-oriented and disciplined and participate on the live webinars for free. Or, for a monthly fee or an annual fee, subscribe to the service so you can view the material on your own time, no calendar or exact time constraints. As much as it sounds good to save money by participating in the “live” webinar, my own personal tastes would lead me to subscribe to access the material on my time schedule.*

*Seeing the pricing windows above, I suppose one could subscribe to the \$9.95 per month package, view all 138 hours in that one month, and then unsubscribe! Do you have 138 hours of free time in one month? I suppose if you don’t want to sleep.*

*You can take a look at the links above to see what the webinars are in the archives. You can even click on the internal link for a particular webinar and be able to get a 15 minute “screening” of the webinar to see if you want to listen to the whole show. Be aware, that in this 15 minute sample, you are actually not able to “see” the video portion. The audio portion is available to listen to, not the video (if any).*

*You can take a look at the website and be able to select your webinars of interest by “speaker” or by “subject”. You can just browse sequentially the list of webinars in*



*the archives from most recently presented to most oldest presented. The oldest webinar goes back to 2010.*

*The web site also allows the viewer to watch/listen to the most recently produced webinar for up to week after the initial presentation. After that, it goes into the archives that are accessible only by subscribed members.*

*With your subscription to the material you also gain access to the "handouts" or "slides" created by the instructor for the webinar.*

*The site also allows you to purchase individually a digital download that would allow you to watch the webinar on your computer while not connected to the Internet. The site also allows you to purchase a CD of the program for viewing using your DVD player and not being on your computer or online. Each CD is priced at \$9.95. Nice variety for you to see a Webinar in just about any manner.*

*If you subscribe to the webinar service, you also receive a 5% discount on any other purchases you may do from the Legacy store.*

*This site appears to be an extension of the Legacy Family Tree website. Webinars produced earlier were accessed via the main Legacy Family Tree website. Now this site is dedicated strictly to the webinars. I like that because the site is clean-cut and easy to navigate through. You will find links for "Upcoming Webinars", "Archived Webinars" and "Products". You will also see a very nice Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section. You also have the ability to "test" your connection to the site to be sure you would connect properly should you choose to participate in a live webinar.*

*Take a look at this new site. Take a look at the long list of webinars available to you as a member. I am sure you would find something you like in the topics presented. Based on an annual subscription at roughly \$50, your cost per webinar would be about \$.30, if you viewed all of the webinars!! Sounds like a good deal to me.*

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## Handout #9 – WHY GENEALOGISTS BLOG (OR WHY THEY SHOULD!)

*The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the January/March 2013, Volume 39, Number 1 issue of NGS Magazine.*

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I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “Why Genealogists Blog (Or Why They Should!). The author of the article is Thomas MacEntee. This article is really near and dear to my own heart because I was reading about it through the familiar eyes of being a blogger. I think blogging is great from the perspective that I do it on behalf of the library. That presents me with one point of view of the purpose of my blog. That view may be entirely different from your own which is more than likely to connect you with those that may know about your ancestors or vice versa.

Think of a blog like being an online diary. Your “posts” are like your diary entries. Maybe they occur daily, maybe weekly. They should occur with some repeating frequency otherwise your blog may not be viewed as a serious blog and you may not get return visitors.

The author provides the following reasons how authoring a blog or even reading genealogy blogs can help you with your own research:

- **Research** – post a question that is looking for an answer for your own research and you may very have someone connect to you with the answer you seek. Now you may even enter the collaborative stage between the two of you, each having new information to share with each other to expand your research.
- **Connect With Family** – what better way to discover or be discovered by all of those cousins that are just waiting for you out there. Your circle of family can grow and grow.
- **Connect With Other Genealogists** – you may now have the ability to connect with other genealogists who specialize in certain knowledge on ethnic areas of research or geographic areas of interest.
- **News** – genealogy vendors and societies frequently use blogs to get the word out on products, services and the like. These groups know that blogging for them is in essence self-promoting that may link to something you yourself are seeking.

The author notes how you can go about finding blogs of interest to your own personal research or finding blogs that can serve you as a model for creating your own blog. Use Google, type in a topic or name or combinations of words and even add in the search term “blog”. See the results. Google also has a separate selector group at the top of the page that even says you want to see your results within “blogs” just like you might select you want to see your results in “images”. The author himself is the organizer of a wonderful site both for blogs and resources to

help bloggers called Geneabloggers. You can find them at [www.geneabloggers.com](http://www.geneabloggers.com). The author even provides you with a list of blogs by type, such as "Polish Blogs" or "Library Blogs" or by area of geography. His list is divided into 100 different categories of blogs to discover, many in an area of research interest for yourself.

If you find a blog of interest for your own needs, you can just visit it over time. But if you forget, you may miss out on discovering some new material in posts. You can bookmark it or better yet you can subscribe to it either from within the blog usually via supplying your e-mail address or via an RSS feed that you can manage. Within either manner you will then receive e-mail notices or RSS updates when new posts are made at the blog. This way you will always know when something new has been posted.

Most bloggers allow you the capability to leave "comments". This is the bloggers way to invite you to leave a comment on a blog post. Maybe you know something more. Maybe the post was on research near and dear to you. Leave a comment and take a chance on opening up a wonderful connection that may help both of you.

The author provided the following tips, should you choose to try blogging for your genealogy. Tips mentioned are:

- **Define Your Blog Type** – most common is the individual family history in which you post items about your research, post photos of family members discovered, post photos of documents etc.
- **Define Your Blog Goals** – What do you want to accomplish? How long will it take to reach those goals?
- **Map Out A Blog Format** – if you start a free blog at [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com) or [www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com) you will have many choices to make on what your blog will look like. The best way to select that appearance is to actually look for existing blogs that are out there and what looks good to you. The above two providers provide you with free blogs and templates. You can subscribe to premium services and create blogs over and above in appearance what the free ones allow to do.
- **Don't Forget the Reader** – because you are going to connect with older readers you want to be conscience of your blog's appearance. It should be easy-to-read, with larger fonts with a white or light-colored background.
- **Go Slow!** – review your goals. Learn the blogging process from within your provider. Be flexible. Change your blog appearance over time as you learn and feel you now know more about blogging than when you started.
- **Choose Your Blog Name** – this may be the hardest part about blogging. Make a name connected to an ancestral family. Or a place where an ancestor lived. Make your name stand out. Be prepared to create an alternative name since it is not out of the realm of possibility that the initial name you choose is already taken.

- **Select A Blog Template** – stick with the countless free templates to pick from through your blogger provider. There are plenty available.

The author also provided tips for genealogy blog readers and for creating your own blog:

- **When reading genealogy blogs, don't limit yourself to one type.** There are so many more types to consider.
- Use an aggregator or reader such as Google Reader to streamline the reading process as you subscribe to blogs.
- **Leave comments on those blog posts** that cause you to think or that have helped you with your own research.
- **Contact the owner of the blog directly via a "Contact" portion** of the blog. Leave a message right with the source.
- Constructively comment. Share advice or encouragement.
- Share your favorite blog posts via other Social Media as Facebook or Twitter.
- **Contact the blog owner if you want to reproduce all or part of a post or to borrow a photo.** Always respect copyright and the intellectual rights of others.
- **Before you create your own blog read others and take notes on formats, templates and writing styles.**
- Start slow on your blog. There will be a lot to learn that you can include in your blog to make it stand out. Those additions will come over time. You don't have to have all aspects of them at the very start.
- Find your writing niche be it a geographic area of writing or an ethnicity. Or some other aspect of genealogy. Strive to become an authority.
- Take advantage of free technologies to extend the reach of your blog posts and their messages. Create a presence for yourself on Facebook and Twitter to publicize your blog posts.

This was a great article simply because I can relate to it in my blogging world. I personally enjoy blogging and what it can accomplish. **You can get right into creating a blog about an ancestor now and make those connections in the future as new readers and researchers interested in your research discover you.** That is what it is all about in genealogy today. Discover and be discovered. Blogging is just one of the tools you can use today to make the discoveries happen!.

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## Handout #10 – THE FRUGAL GENEALOGIST: PHOTOGRAPHY AND GENEALOGY

*The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the January/March 2013, Volume 39, Number 1 issue of NGS Magazine.*

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I also think that another interesting article in this issue is one titled “The Frugal Genealogist: Photography and Genealogy”. The author of the article is Phillip Hermann. The author has decided to take on the mantle of being a “frugal genealogist” and spending money on those tools and devices that will give the most “bang for the buck” across a variety of tasks. The genealogist is always faced with expending funds on a multitude of things related to genealogical research. Therefore, getting the most out of your expenditures is critical. Our money can go for countless things such as educational programs, research trips, conference and equipment to facilitate our research and storage.

The topic the author has chosen to focus on within this article to make a point about getting the most out of something is photography.

The author notes that we as researchers can utilize printers that have scanner capabilities built in or portable scanners, but having two of the same like pieces of equipment is not frugal. So the “frugal genealogist” wants to make us aware of how using a good quality camera can allow us to do many tasks, each of which might have its own expensive equipment.

The author looks at the use of a camera to accomplish being able to take photos of tombstones, photos of documents, photos of photos and family history functions.

The “frugal genealogist” has the following requirements to consider when purchasing a camera for all of these multi-uses:

- Should cost less than \$300 and be easy to use.
- Takes pictures in low light (especially when you will use it at archives, libraries or homes.)
- Fits into a pocket.
- Has image stabilization so a tripod is not needed.
- Takes excellent close-ups (think photos of documents).
- Has a large LCD screen display, at least 3 inches in size.
- It previews your photos quickly on the LCD screen.

- You will use it for many different activities (from vital records to tombstones).
- Has an easy process to download the photos to your computer.
- Has greater than 10 megapixels capability (greater detail equals larger prints).

Look for a camera that also has a wide aperture or lens opening. More light that comes in the better you will be, especially when the light is limited.

The author noted in the article 2 cameras to consider to purchase for these multi-tasks it will be used for:

- Nikon Coolpix P300 Digital Camera (less than \$300)
- Nikon Coolpix P310 Digital Camera (less than \$300)

The author also gives some insights into the uses of the multi-tasking use of the camera you use:

- **Tombstones** – Early morning light or early evening light is the best light for taking photos of tombstones. Don't forget to take pictures of all sides of vertical monuments since there may be information over and above that for the one you are seeking. Take a picture of the name of the cemetery at the entranceway so you know where the pictures came from. Consider using FindAGrave to post your research photos at [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com).
- **Photos of Documents** – Perhaps you are accessing important documents in tightly bound books that make it difficult to make a copy on a scanner. This is the time to use your camera. Perhaps you are looking at documents at a relative's house and they do not have a scanner and you did not bring any. Take a photo of the document rather than asking to take it off site. Consider using Picasa by Google to store these photos in on your computer. You can find information about Picasa at <http://www.picasa.google.com>.
- **Photos of Photos** – have you come across a photo album in the possession of a relative in which the photo album will not allow you to remove the photos because of aged adhesive from plastic covers? Use your camera to zoom in on each individual photo and take a picture of it. Unfortunately, you will not know what is on the back of the photo for fear of damaging it by removal, but at least you have an image of it. Use some good downlighting from table lamps to enhance the lighting before taking the picture. Be careful of any reflections if you cannot open up the plastic sheet covering the photo. Keep taking a picture of the picture until you are satisfied you have a good image to work from.
- **Family History** – get your camera out when visiting relatives to capture them in the moment. Many of the digital camera also have video recording mode onto memory cards. You can do this to capture

their motions and their voices. All of these can be parts of your family history research.

I thought this was a good article to make you aware of how to think of purchasing equipment for your genealogy that has multi-function capabilities. We don't have endless supplies of money nor do we have easy ways of carting all of these devices around for our research. The author wants us to think good quality equipment that serves us in more ways than the obvious. I do like the idea of being called a "frugal genealogist". Perhaps the author has many more planned topics he can inform us on all of which fall under the category of "frugal genealogist".

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