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June 11, 2013 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our June 11, 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 SEPTEMBER 7, 2013

THE SOCIETY WILL NOT BE MEETING DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2013. THEY WILL RE-GATHER AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER 2013. I WILL PROVIDE UPDATES ABOUT THE PROGRAM IN SEPTEMBER AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE

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

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists will take place on Saturday morning, September 7, 2013. The program for the morning is titled **"To Be Determined"**. The speaker for the morning will be To Be Determined.

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
REGULAR SOCIETY PROGRAM ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2013**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, September 18, 2013. The program scheduled for that evening is **“Write Your Family History NOW”**. The speaker for the program will be Mike Karsen.

We genealogists are very good at doing research and collecting many facts about our families. For any of a number of reasons, however, most of us delay publishing the results of this research. Mike Karsen shows how you can publish your findings in books that vary from a simple 30 pages to one that contains detailed biographies and places your family in historical context. Your goal should be to organize your findings and share them with your family as soon as possible.

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

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

This meeting will take place at the DuPage County Historical Museum, Upstairs Meeting Room. The address of the Museum is 102 E. Wesley St. in Wheaton, IL. The meeting room opens at 6:30 PM. Refreshments are available at that time. The society conducts business at 7 PM, the speaker will start by 7:30 PM and the program will conclude by 8:30 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 JUNE 15, 2013 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, June 15, 2013 at the Schaumburg Township District Library starting at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"Military Genealogy"**. The speaker for the program will be Tina Beaird.

This program will trace military records from the American Revolution to World War II with an emphasis on documents available at local, state, and national archives.

Tina Beaird is the Genealogy & Local History Librarian at the Plainfield Public Library. She holds a Master of Library and Information Science degree with a specialization in Archives/Preservation from Dominican University. Tina has won multiple research and digitization grants to preserve and digitize historic documents and photographs.

Currently, Tina is an active member of the Society of American Archivists and the American Library Association. Formerly, the Archivist and governing board member of the Illinois State Genealogical Society from 2004-2010, she is now an Oswego Heritage Association governing board member and an Oswego Historic Preservation Commissioner.

Tina lectures at the national, state and local level on topics including genealogical research, photo preservation and archival preservation. Tina has offered professional assistance to researchers for over 10 years and occasionally, still finds time to conduct her own family research, which she has been pursuing for over twenty years.

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 JULY 9, 2013

Our guest speaker for our July 9, 2013 genealogy program will be Robin Seidenberg. Robin will present a program titled **"Skeletons in Our Closet: Researching a Family Scandal"**.

Robin B. Seidenberg reveals an intriguing tale of wealth, romance, betrayal, jealousy and murder. After investigating rumors of an old family scandal that occurred during the Roaring Twenties in Chicago, Robin uncovered a sensational story that made newspaper headlines across the entire nation.

While Robin expected to find information in Chicago, she was amazed to discover sensational news stories from New York to California, Wyoming to Texas. She even learned of one great aunt's career on Broadway and in Hollywood. Robin will tell the fascinating story of the scandal and explain how she found the information about these beautiful sisters.

When Robin B. Seidenberg researched a family scandal involving her great aunt, referred to as the "Kissing Blonde", she realized that historical newspapers were a fantastic resource. She discovered that another great aunt - described as "the most universally famous girl in America" and "the girl with the schoolgirl complexion" - had an extensive career on Broadway and in Hollywood.

Discover the identity of the "Kissing Blonde" and learn how Robin researched historical newspapers to unravel this family mystery.

A member of the Genealogical Speakers Guild and the Association of Professional Genealogists, Robin currently serves as executive vice president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois, vice president of PCBUG, and president of Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts. She has been studying her family history since 1997.

Robin earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Chicago and completed most of her Ph.D. requirements at the University of Illinois. This former college French teacher has used her linguistic skills to translate family records from Polish and Old Cyrillic.

Robin specializes in using historical newspapers to research family history.

You may visit the library's web page at:

www.SchaumburgLibrary.org

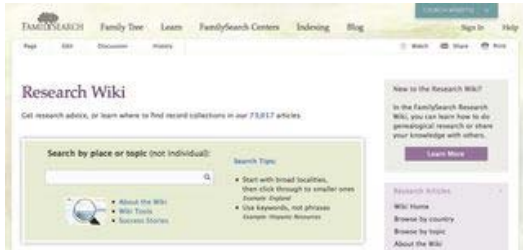
to view a Calendar of Events section of the library web page for this program and for many more non-genealogical programs offered by our library.

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 – FINDING THE FAMILYSEARCH WIKI IS NOW EASIER

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated April 24, 2013.



A number of comments posted to the end of recent articles in this newsletter have mentioned the recent redesign of FamilySearch.org. While many things have been improved, several of the commonly-used functions are now harder to find. Writing in the FamilySearch Blog, Steve Anderson notes that the web designers at FamilySearch apparently have been listening and reading. As a result, the FamilySearch Wiki is now easier to find with very few keystrokes.

Details may be found in Steve's article in the FamilySearch Blog at

<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/finding-wiki-easier/>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

For those of you that are possibly unfamiliar with the FamilySearch Wiki, a little background is in order. A Wiki, in general, is like an online encyclopedia. Registered participants contribute to creating Wiki entries on a variety of topics and subjects. Those with knowledge of the subject create the material. A Wiki entry can be updated, added to, corrected or changed by other registered Wiki participants. The entry can often be a living document, changing over time as needed. It becomes a great reference source for other researchers to tap into to see if such an entry will help them understand a topic better.

The FamilySearch Wiki is a great resource. If I need to know how to help someone about embarking on Polish research, I could look to see what exists in this large Wiki that is related to Polish genealogical research, or Polish history or Polish archival records or Polish church records. You get the picture. In one Wiki I can steer someone to just about anything that is related to something they are trying to research.

I frequently use it as a reference tool to help other genealogy researchers. Just like you, each of us becomes familiar with resources we use. We know where they are and where to find them until ... one day you go to your habit-formed familiar place and your resource is not there! Where is it? You know it is there somewhere because you are smart and intelligent. But where is it? You know they would never take it away. Or would they?

Sometimes we re-discover it easily. Sometimes we spend 15 minutes looking and clicking on every link to no avail. I know this has happened to you. In the case of

FamilySearch, they must have received tremendous feedback regarding what happened to the Wiki that is used so often. **Something used often should never be buried in a web redesign 6 layers down.** Have a link on the main home page. If not there, have it as a top accessible link somewhere where it makes sense to belong.

I often wonder about these redesigns and the manpower reviews that took countless hours before the final product is released. I just wonder how the "experts" could come to their own misguided conclusion that now is the time to bury this wondrous link to a great resource so that it cannot be found easily!

At least positive feedback from the genealogy community has caused FamilySearch to understand that such a valuable tool should not be hidden. **FamilySearch has listened and now the Wiki has greater visibility and access than it recently had.**

You can now find the FamilySearch Wiki very easily. Just go to the FamilySearch website at www.familysearch.org. Once there, look for the big icon that says "Search". Click on that. On the next page the link to the Wiki can be found by looking for "Wiki" at the top of this page. It is now just 2 clicks away from the homepage.

If you have never used the FamilySearch Wiki I would strongly encourage you to visit it and consider accessing it just about anytime you might have a genealogy question. Do you want to know about researching in Nebraska? Or how about Kenosha County, Wisconsin and how the information about that county can help with your own genealogy research for families in the area. Or how about trying to create a letter written in Polish so you can send a request to an archive or a church in Poland that may be able to help in your family history research. **Just switch the geographic areas I used as examples above to those that apply to your own research areas of geographic interest and you can see why the Wiki is a perfect tool to help you.**

The power of the FamilySearch Wiki is immense. Don't miss out on the opportunity to tap into it. Once you use it, I feel confident you will visit it more and more as your research progresses.

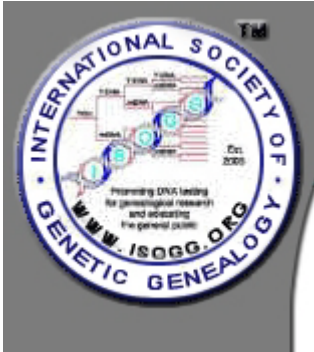
At least it is now much more visible and is not buried deep in layers of web pages!

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Handout #7 – A LIST OF GENEALOGY DNA COMPANIES

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated May 14, 2013.

A newsletter reader wrote and asked, "I would like to get my DNA done on my Mothers side. Can you tell me who would be the best one to do it?"



In fact, there is a long list of DNA companies in the business of helping customers find their ancestry. I cannot think of any one that I would call "the best." However, the International Society of Genetic Genealogy, or ISOGG, does maintain a long list of companies in the business and even lists the specialties of each company. You can find that list at http://www.isogg.org/wiki/List_of_DNA_testing_companies.

Several companies specialize in deep ancestry or in health-related issues or in paternity cases. You will need to determine what kind of DNA tests you want to narrow the search. The ISOGG list includes links to the web sites of each company listed.

You can find a lot more information about genealogy DNA at the ISOGG at <http://www.isogg.org/>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

I did a quick look at the list and counted up about 38 companies that are identified at the site. WOW! I was surprised at how many were there. Most of us that do genealogy and keep our ears open to discover companies that do DNA analysis might have only thought there were maybe 4 or 5 providers. Who would have known there were 38. However, what we don't know from the list is the market share each company has in the field. Maybe the top 4 companies we may have heard of constitute 95% of the market.

You may have many choices, but sometimes you have to stick with the bigger companies simply because your test results will be compared to those already in their database. You need to have big numbers of participants in a company's database in order to get exposure to DNA connections.

The four biggest names that come to my mind in this field are Ancestry DNA from Ancestry.com, Family Tree DNA often known as FTDNA, 23 And Me and National

Geographic's Genographic Project. In all honesty, after these four blockbuster names, I could not say who might be the next company name I would be familiar with in this field. And yet the list noted from Dick Eastman shows a total of 38.

Also click on the link above to ISOGG which is the International Society of Genetic Genealogy. They have some wonderful "resource" information at the site as well as a special link for "newbies" who are interested in seeing what DNA testing can do for them in their research efforts. The site looks like a very good site that can provide you with the information about genealogy DNA testing that will help you better understand the mystery of DNA testing.

With the above link from Dick Eastman, you now have a list of 38 DNA testing companies that you can look through for consideration to choose from to have your DNA genealogy testing done. There are links provided for you to get to the individual company website to obtain more information about their services and their cost. Hopefully, they also share the numbers of "customers" they have in their database. More is better in this case. Otherwise, you may need to focus on the 4 companies I noted above that appear to be the largest companies providing this service.

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Handout #8 – MOCAVO ANNOUNCES GENEALOGY KARMA

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated May 5, 2013.

What may become a major genealogy site has been announced. **Genealogy Karma** hopes to replace an earlier web site that has been missed by thousands. Many of us used Bridgett and Doc Schneider's *Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness* (RAOGK) web site. The site went offline in 2011. Sadly, [Bridgett passed away](#) a short time later. Several people have tried to create replacements for RAOGK but none of the new sites have achieved the popularity of the original. **Now a commercial company has created a new web site with similar aims** and has dedicated the site to the memory of Bridgett Schneider. The new site runs on custom-written software that adds features not available on the original RAOGK web site. **Best of all, the new site will remain available to all free of charge.**

I invite you to check out Genealogy Karma at www.mocavo.com/karma.

The following was written by Mocavo.com:

Back in 1999, a fantastic resource was established to bring together members of the genealogy community all around the world. The brainchild of Bridgett and Doc Schneider, **Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK)** was created to help genealogists collaborate with the genealogy community to document their research, while also offering genealogists a way to give back to a community that had helped them in the past. RAOGK quickly turned into a global organization. The group's volunteers were able to help thousands of genealogists make progress in their family history research.

The RAOGK website went offline in 2011 because of a computer disaster. Sadly, Bridgett Schneider passed away later that year, and the website was never able to come back online. In tribute to Bridgett and Doc Schneider and all of the participants in RAOGK, many volunteers have created programs similar to RAOGK to help bring together the expertise of the genealogy community. **Doc and Bridgett's legacy and the efforts of thousands of volunteers inspired us to create a place for researchers to come together and collaborate to help other members of the genealogical community.**

Today, at Mocavo, we are excited to announce the launch of [Genealogy Karma](#). Modeled after Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness, we hope to empower the Mocavo community and connect researchers all around the country. If you're looking for documents, records, or photos from an ancestor who lived far away, we will connect you with family history volunteers who can do this research for you in other cities. Likewise, if you'd like to give back to the Mocavo community and have a little time to donate, you can sign up as a volunteer.



To begin visit www.mocavo.com/karma

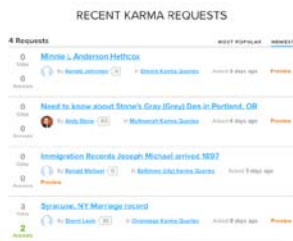
To request help:

1. Simply click on "I need to request help."
2. Select the county for your request.
3. Create a short title and add a detailed explanation of your request so that others can help find what you're looking for.
4. Tag your request to help others discover it. For example, you can tag your request as "photo", "birth record", or "tombstone".
5. You can also select to be notified if someone replies to your request.
6. Post your query.

To Volunteer:

1. Simply click on "I want to be a volunteer."
2. Select the counties that you can help with.
3. Submit your information.
4. We will then let you know when there are opportunities to help other genealogists in your area.

Similar to surname groups, genealogy karma has a new twist that allows the most valuable content to float to the top of the page.



You can vote positively or negatively on each question and answer. As a result, the most popular questions and most relevant answers rise to the top so that you don't have to dig through heaps of information to find the good stuff. Next to each question or answer within a Surname Group, you will see arrows. If you find a request you are interested in or response that is particularly helpful, you can "vote it up" so that more people will see it. If you find a request to be wildly off topic or unhelpful or if you think an answer is inaccurate, you can "vote it down" so that it will migrate to the bottom of the page. The topics at the top of the page will be the ones with the highest number of "up" votes so that you can quickly see the most valuable questions and answers.

Check out [Genealogy Karma](#) and take advantage of the vast network of Mocavo community members spread far and wide. Let us know what you think in the comments at

http://blog.mocavo.com/2013/05/mocavo_announces_genealogy_karma

or by emailing us at support@mocavo.com.

Comments by Tony Kierna

It is so nice to see that the old system under Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness does appear to be transitioning to a viable new system under Mocavo. It is important for genealogists to understand that there can be a balance between what

you "receive" from the assistance of other genealogists and what you have as the opportunity to "give" by helping other researchers. We can only be in one place at a time. Sometimes we are lucky that our own research is taking place locally where we have access to libraries, archives, cemeteries, churches etc. local to us connected to our research. Isn't it nice to know that if you need "eyes on" material located 800 miles away that you may now have a chance to receive research help through the kindness of a fellow researcher local to the area that you do not reside in.

Mocavo sounds like they will be the solution to migrate the old RAOGK to the new "Karma" system. Same concept of genealogists helping out other genealogists but being done in a more updated system process by a company that appears to be solid and is not going away.

I took a quick look at the site and saw that as of that time there were 186 requests. You do need to take a look at the process because answers to the questions researchers leave are responded to by others. Helping someone does not always entail leaving your own home and going to a research facility to do hands on work. Although you will see specific questions and specific answers it is very probable that the question is similar to one you might have and the answer is similar to one you might receive for how to go about solving your dilemma.

You have to proactively create a free account with Mocavo in order to participate in the new Karma program, either as a question submitter or as one who provides some answers to the questions posed.

Mocavo offers so much more than this new feature Karma. It is a powerful search engine that does require you to register to use. You can sign in for the basic free program or upgrade to the premium service for an annual cost of \$60. Mocavo is definitely a site to consider using as a "main" resource for your research efforts.

Mocavo Plus provides all the benefits of Mocavo Basic along with several additional research tools to help you make discoveries faster and with less effort. Mocavo Plus Advanced Search conveniently filters out irrelevant information so you can find what you're looking for more quickly and easily than ever before. In addition, with Mocavo Plus, new discoveries about your ancestors are automatically delivered to you so you don't have search for the same person over and over again. With Mocavo Plus you have access to timesaving functions like Discovery Alerts, Smart Trees, Browsing History, Advanced Search and Advanced Document Search.

Do you need some help with your research, especially in areas not near you? Try Mocavo Karma. Would you like to give back to the genealogy community as a way to say thanks for help you may have received? Try Mocavo Karma. Mocavo is more than just a great search engine. It is an incredible growing community of fellow genealogy researchers. Don't miss out on the opportunity to connect to Mocavo and to Mocavo Karma.

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Handout #9 – “A MINUTE ... TO PIN IT!”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the April/May 2013, Volume 8, Number 1 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “A Minute ... to Pin It!”. The author of the article is Lisa A. Alzo.

The article provides information about how we have taken the concept of corkboards and push pins from a manual process to a digital process. Years ago individuals used corkboards to post things of importance to them. Items on the board could have been pictures of relatives, news articles that had special meanings, maps of local areas and places far away. Each item on the board represented a special meaning to us as an individual that we wanted to highlight in front of us.

The author’s article brings us into the digital age of “virtual pushpins” and how we can recreate the old corkboards of times past into our new digital corkboard full of virtual pushpins. The author makes us aware of what resources exist today in a digital environment that allows us to keep our corkboards online with pushpins in them representing just about anything we can imagine.

Sites mentioned in this article are:

- **Pinterest** @ www.pinterest.com is a pinboard-style photo sharing website. Genealogists are using it to create “boards” for surnames, ancestral towns, recipes, family photos, documents and the like. Pinterest is a visual-based site so your pins must contain images. Pins are clickable and will get the reader to other items of interest such as blogs or websites. You can also reach the Help page at Pinterest at <http://pinterest.com/about/help>.
- **Ancestral Atlas** @ www.ancestralatlas.com is a map-based genealogy site to use for your family history. You can register to use the site for free or you can even upgrade after using the free version for \$32 per year. The upgrade to the premium service will provide you with additional items to use such as historical maps to overlay with your material, licensed data, life maps as well as to take advantage of networking capabilities with other researchers. You pin your family history and determine if you want the data online as private or networked.
- **Dear Photograph** @ <http://dearphotograph.com> that allows you to upload a film-photography picture for which the site will blend it into a new interesting image. The author emphasizes that you should read the “Terms of Submission” part of the service.

- **Google Maps/Google Earth** @ <http://maps.google.com> although know for basics as driving directions allows you to do so much more. Did you know you can create personal maps you can customize with pinned information and images? **You will need to create a Google Account for free first before you can use the Maps feature.** Google Earth @ <http://earth.google.com> lets you take mapping to the next level. You can create a virtual family history tour that you can share with relatives via e-mail. **Lisa Louise Cooke has written some genealogically oriented books titled "Google Earth for Genealogists, Volume I and Volume II".**
- **HistoryPin** @ www.historypin.com that allows you to pin photos to a map and view those that others have pinned. **It works with Google and therefore requires that you have a Google Account in order to use.** Once you sign in you will have your own channel containing all of your uploads or favorites or tours and collections you created.
- **UEncounterMe** @ www.uencounter.me is a **site that contains the best of virtual pinning with social media.** You can pick from different privacy options such as Private, Hidden and Public. **Use its social media function to then connect with other family and friends to work collaboratively on family history. It will automatically notify you when any of your networked collaborators adds a new pin.** You can see the FAQ section of this site at www.uencounter.me/about/faq and the associated blog for the site at <http://blog.uencounter.me> to learn more about the site.
- **What Was There** @ www.whatwasthere.com allows you to upload an image and pin it to a dynamic map based on Google Maps. This then allows users to navigate familiar streets as they appeared in the past. You can go between present views and historical views to see the changes.

The author also includes a "sidebar" in the article that provides "Pinning Tips" to maximize the best experience you could have with these sites. Tips mentioned are:

- **Read the terms and conditions and the privacy policy *BEFORE* you set up any account.** Know how a site will use any material you upload.
- **Understand copyright status,** especially if you will be "pinning" material that is not original to you. If unsure, don't pin!
- The better the images the more attention you will attract.
- **Be sure to include a good description with your pin** allowing others to understand the image and will allow you to understand why you pinned it. **Choose good descriptive keywords if the site allows them.**

- **Interact with other users.** Follow others or subscribe to channels you like. Post comments.

The author did a very good job making note of sites that have this functionality that are over and above the sites we may have been familiar with such as Google Maps and Pinterest.

If you are not familiar with this process, just visit the sites noted above to obtain a better feel as to what is possible for you to do with your own genealogical material, either in a private setting for your own use or to try to network with other researchers.

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Handout #10 – “FROM QUILL PENS TO PIXELS”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the April/May 2013, Volume 8, Number 1 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled “From Quill Pens to Pixels”. The author of this article is David A. Norris.

The author gives us some guidance as to what online resources can be used to advance your research of your American colonial ancestors. The data itself may not all be online, but by using Internet resources we can find the material that is non-digital such as books and microfilms that contains the data of interest to you.

The author notes that the most helpful records for researching colonial American ties are wills and probate files, newspapers, deeds and land grants and court and jury records.

The most valuable online family history data pertinent to your colonial American research you can find online comes from digitized original records such as colonial documents, early newspapers and books.

Key resources mentioned by the author are:

- Land Grants, Patents and Deeds – the author notes to check state archives for land grants for Land Grants and local counties for Deed records. Take advantage of the online catalog from FamilySearch to search geographically for the geographic areas associated with your colonial ancestors. The catalog will lead you to potential microfilms for you to investigate.
- Modern Maps – learn about an individual county formation over time and compare that to the current county map. It is not unusual to have original counties be huge in size and to then be pared down to much smaller, moder-day size counties. Knowing the transition is important to know where the records can be found to research deeper back in time. County names may even have changed through this process. Look at www.genealogyinc.com as a tool to determine this. Place names can be found at the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) at <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/index.html>.
- Deeds and Wills – these offer the best source for some amazing discoveries. More and more of these are finding their way to the internet. The Family History Library has many digital collections for many of the original 13 colonies.
- Indentured Servants – as many as 250,000, roughly half of the European immigrants before 1775, came to America as an indentured servant. The virtual Jamestown site has listings of about 15,000 of

them at www.virtualjamestown.org/servantcontracts.html. The Immigrants Servants database at www.pricegen.com/immigrantservants/search/simple.php has over 20,000 names. Prisoners that fell under this indentured servant category may have their records online as part of the original English Old Bailey records at www.oldbaileyonline.org.

- **Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Applications** – those who become members of the DAR have had to submit extensive, provable and documented family history research. Perhaps a family line of interest has already been researched and submitted to this organization. You can see if your current research line extends back far enough to connect to a DAR family. You can check out some of this material at the DAR Genealogical Research System at http://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search. You can search for ancestors, members or descendants.
- **Colonial Newspapers Online** – there were 37 newspapers in the colonies at the time of 1775. Many issues have been lost but some survive. The digitization of this material has made researching them that much easier. Look for the Virginia Gazette at <http://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/BrowseVG.cfm>. Look at the North Carolina Newspaper Digitization Project at www.archives.ncdcr.gov/newspaper/index.html. Fee-based website such as Genealogy Bank at www.genealogybank.com is also a good source. Don't forget to look at even later editions of newspapers into the 1860s because many of the Revolutionary War Period individuals could have lived to a long life into the 1860s.
- **Digital Cemetery Records** – consider using FindAGrave at www.findagrave.com and Interment.net at www.interment.net for your online search. The Political Graveyard at <http://politicalgraveyard.com> may be a source for any colonial politicians that are part of your family history.
- **Books** – Look at Google Books at www.books.google.com for any old digitized books that are searchable for your colonial research. Also the Internet Archive at www.archive.org can get you to book material online for your research. These are public domain books because of their age that do not present a problem for copyright infringement. You might find militia muster rolls, tax rolls, court records land grants and the like contained within the digitized books.
- **British Colonial Records** – there are online resources that look at the colonial period from the perspective of the British. Look at British History Online at www.british-history.ac.uk/catalogue.aspx?gid=123. Look at the London Gazette that goes back to 1665 for colonial material from the British perspective. You can find this at www.london-gazette.co.uk. This paper was the official paper of the British government.

As you can see, the author has put together a very nice listing of sources the colonial American researcher should consider to use for online information. I especially like

the mention of considering British records, since much was documented about colonial activity through the British.

Even though it is back in time, there is a good chance you will be able to find of your information online as you discover information about your colonial American ancestor.

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