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February 11, 2014

February 11, 2014 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our February 11, 2014 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 MARCH 1, 2014

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 60 MINUTE ROUND-TABLE HELP SESSION THAT STARTS AT 9:00 AM PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL PROGRAM.

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists will take place on Saturday morning, March 1, 2014. The program for the morning is titled **"French Genealogy Is Easy – Merci, Napoleon!"**. The speaker for the morning will be Jacquie Schattner.

Jacquie Schattner has been actively researching her family's ancestors since 1996. She volunteered at the Family History Center, Schaumburg for 15 years, teaches genealogy for District 214 Adult Ed, teaches beginning genealogy at area libraries and is active in several genealogy societies, including CAGGNI and Northwest Suburban Genealogists. Jacquie received her B.S. degree from the University of Illinois. She works as a school secretary, allowing her free time in the summer to pursue new information. Living in Palatine, she has been happily married for 34 years to Fred, has three grown children, two son-in-laws and two adorable grandchildren.

In the late 1700's, Napoleon's new laws created changes that help make today's French genealogy research easier. Curious to find out why? You will not only learn that but also about websites, both French and American, which will help locate your family in the countries where Napoleon ruled. (France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands and surrounding areas.) Links to over 30 websites. Document translations, French genealogical terms, and other aides will be presented. Come join us! *Bienvenue!*

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 9:00 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:

www.NWSCG.com

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Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT REGULAR SOCIETY PROGRAM ON MARCH 19, 2014

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, March 19, 2014. The program scheduled for that evening is **"Tech Toys for Genealogists"**. The speaker for the program will be **Nancy Thomas**.

Come see a demonstration of some useful hardware and software "toys" that will help you "play" in today's genealogical sandbox.

This meeting will take place at the Wheaton Public Library, Lower Level. The address of the library is at 225 N. Cross 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.dcgs.org

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON FEBRUARY 22, 2014 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, February 22, 2014 at the Schaumburg Township District Library starting at 10:30 AM. **(PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN THE MEETING DATE.)** The program scheduled for this day is **""Planting" Your Family Tree Online (Setting Up Your Family History Website – Part II"**. Panelists will include Larry Olson, Everett Butler and Alan Wilson.

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 MARCH 11, 2014

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, March 11, 2014 at 7:30 PM.

We will have another "break-out" session for our gathering on March 11, 2014. Our previous attempts proved to be quite a good success. I would like us to build on those successes and afford those participants the opportunity to meet with those again or sample other groups.

After an initial introduction of new participants at the start of our normally scheduled meeting, we will establish our "breakout" groups at approximately 7:45 PM. We would have these breakout discussions from about 8:00 PM until about 9:30 PM. These groups would consist of about 7 to 8 participants. They would discuss some common topic of genealogy that interests them or from which they could learn even more to assist their research from sharing with others in the group and learning from others within the group.

The groups we previously tried seemed to work out quite well. I want to go with those same groups and am open to suggestions to attempt to add others or delete those that may not have a following.

I want to reconvene the following groups:

> Polish Researchers
> German Researchers
> Czech Researchers
> Irish Researchers
> Italian Researchers
> British Researchers
> Scandinavian Researchers
> Colonial Americans Researchers
> Sharing Your Printed Family Histories/How To

I also will have a Beginner's Group that I will lead.

We will also have the computer in the room for anyone to access the internet.

I would also encourage participants to bring their personal laptop or netbook to these sessions and tap into the internet via our WiFi network. I saw many researchers doing this at our last breakout session and they found it very productive to access internet information while being in one of the groups if they wanted to show something to someone else at the table.

Please remember that the group's composition is based on the numbers that will participate. If only one person is present to participate in the Polish group, then we cannot have a Polish group that evening. I cannot guarantee there will be enough participants to form a group. In that case I would always recommend participating in another ethnic group of interest if that is also in your research interests or join me at the Beginner's Group.

==The key to this effort is to be flexible in selecting a group to work with==.

I look forward to our next "break-out" session on March 11, 2014.

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 – ORAL FAMILY HISTORY CAN BE LOST IN 3 GENERATIONS

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated December 19, 2013.

Aaron Holt, archives technician at the National Archives Fort Worth, said it is not unusual for genealogists today to have conflicting stories about an ancestor if oral history was not passed down in a deliberate way through the generations.

"I tell people all the time that it only takes three generations to lose a piece of oral family history," Holt said. "It must be purposely and accurately repeated over and over again through the generations to be preserved for a genealogist today."

If that piece of oral history is about an ancestor's death, Holt said the chance of the truth being lost is even greater.

You can read more, including Holt's recommendations, in an article by Judy Everett Ramos in the Examiner at http://goo.gl/MhJra5.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Our stories about our ancestral connections may be spotty at best. Sometimes the stories are actually very strong and solid. But think of it using a living example today using a three generation family today of parent, child, grandchild.

You the parent want to pass on to your child that your father died of a heart attack. If your child is relatively young and not much interested in such stories, then what kind of a chance do you think the grandchild has to pick up that fact/story from their parent? Probably very little. So I can easily see how the premise of losing oral traditions can easily be lost, or worse, massively changed with the passing down of the story down the line.

Here is a real life example of life's events also derailing the ability to pass on any oral histories. My own mother's father passed away when she was only four years old. Her grandfather and grandmother were also deceased at that same time. With her having no physical connection to even hear stories from her own father and grandparents, there is really no chance she would have even been exposed to these stories in a direct line manner. And to make the example even more paradoxical, literally the same situation occurred for me in a very similar manner. My own father passed away when I was a small child. My grandparents were also already deceased at this point. So I too had no direct interaction to even hear any stories from my grandparents or even my own father!

I truly think that is what spurred my interest to pursue genealogy. I simply did not know who my grandparents were or who my own father was!

Worse yet are the stories that we talk about that may have no basis in fact. The stories sound good but the real facts may just get in the way. We all like to hear the story of our ancestor that stowed away on the ship arriving into America who was never registered on the passenger list. Or the story of our Civil War ancestor who

was at the battle of Gettysburg and in our own story version turned out to be a hero. We like to hang onto these stories because they set us apart having ancestors of such notoriety. But maybe your ancestor never stowed away on board the ship arriving into America. Or maybe your Civil War ancestor was in the military but he was nowhere near Gettysburg at the time nor was he a military hero!

Let us not let the facts get in the way of the stories! That is often the path of least resistance we take.

There may almost always be a kernel of truth in these stories but unless the actual stories were passed down in a meaningful manner they will change through each generation and will begin to take on a life of their own. Or they may be completely lost and the story will cease to exist after the 3rd generation down the line.

To me, the answer is research and documentation back to the source. We can't change the "stories" we have had passed down to us over the last 100 years. We can investigate them and research them to maybe give them a more realistic shade of meaning. For us, we have the ability to put our stories together with factual evidence today and pass those facts with the story down the line. We can write our oral history. We can video our oral history. We can audio record our oral history, but let us do it with the real stories and the real facts to ensure that these stories get passed on down the line in a meaningful and accurate manner.

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Handout #7 – BASICS OF PAPER CONSERVATION VIDEO

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated December 20, 2013.

I watched a video today that is an excellent tutorial: *Basics of Paper Conservation.* I wish every genealogist and every other person concerned with preserving paper documents would view this. If this information had been common knowledge years ago, many of the problems I have described in past newsletter articles never would have happened.

In the 33-minute video, Illinois State Archives conservator Dottie Hopkins-Rehan discusses simple techniques that archivists and others can use to preserve and repair documents. Topics include how to humidify, flatten, clean and properly store documents. The video is aimed at genealogists, archivists in small historical repositories and students.

Hopkins-Rehan has been a conservator at the State Archives for more than 30 years.

The *Basics of Paper Conservation* video was filmed by Secretary of State staff in the Illinois State Archives' conservation laboratory. You can view the video at

http://goo.gl/2u5svi

Comments by Tony Kierna

It seems like we have recently had a connection to archiving and preservation. Our January speaker at our program, Laura Cosgrove Lorenzana, is an expert archivist. While not advertising herself as a preservationist, she shared with us some great guides about we could do to ensure our genealogical materials are cared for to pass on to the next generations.

And if we learned nothing more from Laura, we learned that your genealogical papers **SHOULD NEVER BE STORED IN ATTICS OR BASEMENTS. THE EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURES AND HUMIDITY WILL DO MORE DAMAGE.**

And now, Dick Eastman makes this post on a nice video that will share even more insights on how to be sure our genealogical materials, especially material that is in paper format will last longer than ourselves.

The video is well put together and is very insightful with great advice on how to work with our genealogical papers.

Do you have papers of note on your ancestors that have been folded in half or worse, in quarters or more? The lesson to be learned is **NEVER, NEVER FOLD YOUR VALUABLE PAPERS SO YOU CAN STORE THEM EASIER**. *But before you learned this lesson, you thought you were smart and folded them before you became aware of this sage advice. You do want to get those papers back into unfolded original condition*

The archivist in the video shows us how we can make our own humidification chamber. The video shows us how easy it really is. A nice big plastic container with a damp towel at the bottom is your starting point. On top of the damp towel you will need to put on a layer of a separator plastic liner that is full of holes for air circulation. When you have this completed, you would lay on your "unfolded" document, close the plastic box with the lid and leave the paper inside to humidify for no more than 8 to 12 hours. Do not leave it in there longer because you could actually do more harm if mold starts appearing in the humidification chamber!

The archivist then also shows us how to take the humidified paper and press it out between two boards. The unfolded document is first placed between tow sheets of acid free separator pages and then that group of pages is placed between two full size wood boards that will completely cover the paper package. You can weight down the boards to allow for more pressure but do not overdo the amount of weight.

If there is another lesson to be learned about conserving your ancestral documents it is that we should not store them with any further extraneous material attached to the paper. In order to do conserving properly simply, do not place any rubber bands around your papers. Do not staple any of your documents. These are extraneous materials. The video shows how to remove any "stuck" pieces f rubber band. You also see the proper way to remove any staples. Do not just pull off the stuck rubber band or do not use a staple remover to remove staples. You do not want to damage or tear these priceless original documents.

The archivist goes on to show us how to store our paper materials in folders and storage boxes, all safe archival material. She makes a point that we should never overfill these folders or boxes. Air circulation is necessary as well as to allow the folder to do its job by covering all of the paper. Once you overfill, the papers often appear above the folder and are not protected.

This is a very helpful and informative document. The key however is to conserve your papers properly from the start. Like anything, it is easier to get it right from the start rather than correct the problems later on. But if you already have folded papers, stapled papers, rubber banded papers and folders bulging with papers, then this video will really give you some good lessons on how to go about correcting your situation.

This video is well-worth a 33 minute investment of your time.

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1/29/2014

Handout #8 – SSDI ACCESS IS NOW LIMITED

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated December 30, 2013.

Judy Russell, author of *The Legal Genealogist* blog, has written about the new restrictions now in place on the Security Death Master File — also known as the Social Security Death Index (SSDI). Her article is available at http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/2013/12/30/ssdi-access-now-limited/.

There is both bad news and good news:

Bad News: there are new restrictions on what was public domain information that can be useful to genealogists.

Good News: the restrictions apply only for records of individuals who died within the past three calendar years. I don't like that but suspect most genealogists can live with the restriction.

You can read more at

 http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/2013/12/30/ssdi-access-now-limited/

Comments by Tony Kierna

The SSDI is a workhouse tool for genealogical research. It provides some great points for your research on an individual. You would be able to get some insights into where the individual was living at the time of their death. You could also be able to see their birth date, death date and what state issued their SSN. There are a lot of clues you can use to further your research on the individual.

But the powers to be feel that such nice information is too good for criminals to tap into and do nefarious things. So now researchers will have to put up with more restrictions on getting good information from this great source of genealogical information.

The one biggest restriction I understand is that it will place a restriction on accessing SSDI information on an individual until 3 years has passed on their death. My understanding about this restriction simply implies that we will not be able to access any current information from the SSDI on individuals who pass in 2014 until the year 2017. So if you happen to know that an individual died in 2014 by seeing that information in an obituary, you should not expect to see that individual in that SSDI database until 3 years after the date of death is reached.

There is a little twist related to this change. It appears that if you send a request of an SS-5 to obtain a copy of a person's original Social Security Application request and that person has died in the last three years, then your request to obtain this information will be denied. The person's information will be in the SSDI but you will not be able to get any more details via the SS-5 form Freedom of Information request. So do not send in an SS-5 request for an individual if you know they

passed away within the last three years. You will be wasting your money because your request will be denied.

However, the biggest bonus from this revised access appears to leave the current data in the SSDI untouched. This means if an individual is in the database today, that individual will still be in the database and will be accessible by you. *So while our research may be somewhat hampered going forward on very recently deceased individuals, our research appears able to be done fully on those that have already passed away that can be found in the SSDI.*

If you are looking at current obituaries and then think you could also include looking at the SSDI for further information, the likelihood is that you should expect to not see that individual in the SSDI for another 3 years. *Do not expect to see any current additions to the SSDI until about 2017.* But at least the existing SSDI data will still be there for you to access. Just keep focusing on your research on those that have already passed away and you should be OK.

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Handout #9 – "MAP YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS – HISTORYPIN.COM"

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the December/January 2014, Volume 8, Number 5 issue of Internet Genealogy.

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I thought that a very good article in this issue is one titled "Map Your Photographs: HistoryPin.com". The author of the article is Maureen Taylor, the "Photo Detective".

There is one thing we genealogists have in common. Geography! What is one of the most important things to know as we do our genealogy research? Places! If you do not have some idea of a geographical connection to an ancestor it becomes almost impossible to find the records of your ancestor. They left the paper trails in the local areas of their life. That is how we find about them. We like to look at maps to gain a bird's eye view of where are our ancestors had their feet on the ground.

The author does a good job of making us aware of taking facts about our ancestors in certain geographic areas and converting that information to the internet via a new web site called HistoryPin.com. We can now mark the spots of interest to us on the virtual maps of the world for others to discover. You can upload photos of places or even videos and "pin" it to a map. You can add content to the picture and share it with the world.

You can visit this new site at:

www.historypin.com

The author notes the site is UK based but there is still plenty of "pins" that are applicable to the United States and other worldwide locations. The author notes there are about 300,000 "pins" so far. The site is also free.

You will also find the following at the site from the Menus selection:

- Map
- Projects
- Channels
- Tours and Collections
- Get Involved
- Blog

You will also encounter "Pin of the Day" on the main web page. I thought it was rather interesting that when I looked at the site itself as I was composing this overview, that the pin of the day was a picture of Niagara Falls when it was frozen! I am writing this on January 7, 2014 when the temperature was -10 degrees and the day before the temperature was -16 degrees! Thinking of a frozen Niagara Falls is certainly a possibility based on our recent sub-zero freezing temperatures.

You can use the "map" function to enter in an area of interest to see if anything has been "pinned". My suggestion is to enter in high-level locations like Chicago or other cities. It will present with a Google map overview of the area in which you can see if there are any pins. You can also move the map around to see the surrounding towns and villages to see if there are pins in the area. I entered in "Chicago" and it gave me an overview. I could then "move" the map to the Northwest suburbs and found pins for Schaumburg, Arlington Heights and Elgin.

If you add a picture of a place how it looks today versus how it appeared before from a picture that already existed at the site, it is known as a "repeat". You can always click on a picture to enlarge it.

When looking at a picture, if you see the yellow person icon in the corner of a picture, you can go to Google Street View to see what the view looks like today.

Take a look at the "channels" part of the site. Here is where you can find a list of contributing organizations that have uploaded material. Contributors to the site range from libraries to archives to individuals. You will discover such contributors such as Historic New England to Archives New Zealand. I even saw one group called President Abraham Lincoln's Assassination that contained images of historical documents as well as some Lincoln funeral images.

When you open up a channel you will be able to get some statistical overview of what you may encounter. You will see how many channel views there have been, how many "pins" have been uploaded, whether there is a "tour" created for parts of this channel.

Also, check the "Tours and Collections" part of the site. Tours lead you step-by-step through a series of pieces of content, telling a story, exploring a place or walking through time.

The site is well-worth a visit. An exploration is a must, especially if you are the kind of researcher that loves to see "old" images, sometimes whether they have any connection to your research or not. It certainly looks like this is a great site for organizations that may have many images of old photos and documents that are related to a geographical area that can be pinned. Yet many of the "pins" I perused were contributions by individuals. So you can participate and not feel like contributions are only made by large-scale organizations.

The article sure piqued my curiosity to check out what I could discover. You too may also find some interesting material at the site and might even consider participating for free and making some contributions of your own material linked to a geographic area.

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Handout #10 – "LATIN 101 FOR GENEALOGISTS"

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the December/January 2014, Volume 8, Number 5 issue of Internet Genealogy.

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I thought that another interesting article in this issue is one titled "Latin 101 for Genealogists". The author of the article is David A. Norris.

The author notes that while we may think of the Latin language as being ancient, we in fact may need to understand it because we are more than likely going to cross paths with the language. Where are we going to see Latin?? More than likely you are going to see the Language in many of the documents you discover connected to your ancestors.

Many of our modern languages have their roots in Latin. Law, medicine, science, religion, history and geography keep many Latin words alive in daily use. Latin often served as a universal language that provided some common ties among the fragmented countries and peoples of medieval and later Europe, even though their native languages were evolving.

Think of it this way. Latin to us is equated with height of the Roman Empire in 300 AD. Yet, when we may be looking at documents of our ancestors from the 1700's, we may easily encounter Latin terms scattered throughout the document. Roman Catholic parish records may well have been written in the language of the local church, but you may find it still filled with Latin terms describing contents of terms used in the document. Unless you have some basic insight into what those terms are, you may not discover deeper information about that particular ancestor from the document.

Terms such as "nativity", "illegitimate", "morbus", "mater", "pater" etc. may all be encountered when looking at a baptism record of an ancestor. The researcher will encounter all kinds of impediments to deciphering a document connected to an ancestor simply based on lack of language knowledge. You may not even know you are encountering Latin based words! And even worse, many of the Latin words used in these church documents may be abbreviated! You may not even realize that the abbreviated word on a documented that appears as "nat." may very well stand for "nativitiy" or as we would know it in English as "birth".

The author does provide some good resources to consider using to help you decipher these unknown words. Some of those mentioned are:

- **German-English Genealogical Dictionary** by Ernest Thode

- **The Record Interpreter: A Collection of Abbreviations, Latin Words and Names …** by Charles Trice Martin. You can find this on the Internet Archive at www.archive.org.

- **The Hospital Steward's Manual** by Joseph Janvier Woodward is helpful to decipher Civil War Latin terms and prescriptions. Also available online at the Internet Archive at www.archive.org on pages 278-284.

- FamilySearch has a document in their Wiki titled "Latin Genealogical Word List" that you can find at http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List
- Great Britain's National Archive offers several resources. You can find the "Beginner's Latin" page at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/beginners/default.htm

The author also provided a nice small list of tips for us to have Latin become our friend. Here is that short list:

- "ae" is pronounced like a long "e", as in "Greek".
- The ancient Roman alphabet did not include the letters "J", "U" or "W". It was not until late antiquity that "X", "Y" and "Z" were added to the end of the alphabet to allow the use of Greek words.
- The letter "I" was used in place of "J" and the "V" was also used in a word where we might use the letter "U".
- "Monumental" style letters resemble modern capital letters and are easy to distinguish. Most manuscript Latin in ancient and medieval times, though, was written in various styles of lower-case letters that can be difficult for the modern reader to recognize.

The author also included in this article a small list of some often seen Latin words you might yourself in some of the documents you are researching on your ancestors. Here are some of those words and their meaning:

- "adoptactitus"   -   adopted
- "annus"   -   year
- "conjugatus"   -   married
- "febris"   -   fever
- "iunioris"   -   junior
- "recto"   -   front side of page
- "variola"   -   smallpox

When you are looking at documents that may be 200 years old, you may very well encounter Latin terms scattered throughout. These may be embedded among words of the language of that document that may be Polish or German or English. Don't just gloss over these words. Those words may really give you that key piece of information as to what the document really means applicable to your ancestor. Use the above resources to best decipher the meaning of the Latin word or abbreviation.

The author leaves you with his own whimsical Latin phrase that really applies to all of us that do genealogy. Thank goodness the author kindly translated the meaning of the phrase.

"Sic friat crustulum". "That's the way the cookie crumbles!"

I leave you with my own Latin phrase from my days in high school Latin.

"Veni, vidi, vici". "I came, I saw, I conquered".

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