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July 8, 2014 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our July 8, 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 SEPTEMBER 6, 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, September 6, 2014. The program for the morning is titled **“Truth or Fiction? – Unraveling a Family Yarn”**. The speaker for the morning will be **Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, CG**.

Meetings take place at the Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 West Central Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005 at 10:00 AM. There is a round table discussion that takes place at 9:00 AM prior to the main meeting that starts at 10:00 AM. Participants are invited to attend this round table and bring their research questions for discussion.

You may visit the society web page at:

www.NWSCG.com

Please note that it has happened once in a while that the society may change a program schedule without actively sharing that fact. Checking their web site may also not give you notice of such a change if they do not change the web site. That is still the first place to check. You may also want to contact someone at the society if a phone number is available to verify that a program is still scheduled as they had advertised. That is always not available either.

We do our best here to try to be sure that information we convey about programs is accurate. However, sometimes we are unable to convey changes unless we are made aware of those changes.

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**Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT
REGULAR SOCIETY PROGRAM ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2014**

Please note that there will be no meetings of the DuPage County Genealogical Society during the months of June, July and August 2014. Meetings will resume again on Wednesday evening, September 17, 2014.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, September 17, 2014. The program scheduled for that evening is **“Beyond the Begats: Adding Biographical Detail to Your Genealogy”**. The speaker for the program will be **Sarah A. V. Kirby**.

Please note that this program will take place at the DuPage County Historical Museum and ***NOT*** the Wheaton Public Library.

You may visit the society's web page at:

www.dcgcs.org

The society also has a blog that you can visit to find out about “this and that” related to the society as well as find genealogical tips. You can visit the DuPage County Genealogical Society blog at:

<http://dupagecountygenealogicalsociety.wordpress.com/>

Please note that it has happened once in a while that the society may change a program schedule without actively sharing that fact. Checking their web site may also not give you notice of such a change if they do not change the web site. That is still the first place to check. You may also want to contact someone at the society if a phone number is available to verify that a program is still scheduled as they had advertised. That is always not available either.

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGG-NI) NEXT PROGRAM ON JULY 19, 2014 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, July 19, 2014 at the Schaumburg Township District Library starting at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"New Tools for Finding Old Stuff"**. The speaker will be **Ginger Frere**.

Technology is changing the face of genealogy. Come take a look at some new online tools and techniques for finding our elusive ancestors. Smartphone apps, software "to-go", current maps overlain by historic maps, online classes, digital libraries, wikis and more! Learn how these tools can enhance your genealogical bag of tricks.

Ginger Frere, a life-long Chicagoan, has been involved in family history for over 20 years. She has an extensive technical and training background with years of experience introducing people to technology. In addition to working with private clients, speaking and teaching seminars, Ginger is a reference librarian in the Genealogy and Local History Section at the Newberry Library in Chicago.

You may visit the organization web page at:

www.CAGGNI.org

Please note that it has happened once in a while that the society may change a program schedule without actively sharing that fact. Checking their web site may also not give you notice of such a change if they do not change the web site. That is still the first place to check. You may also want to contact someone at the society if a phone number is available to verify that a program is still scheduled as they had advertised. That is always not available either.

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Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON AUGUST 12, 2014

Our next genealogy program will be on Tuesday evening, August 12, 2014 at 7:30 PM. Our speaker for this evening's program will be **Jeanne Larzalere Bloom**. Jeanne will present a program titled "**Miracles, Mysteries and Mayhem: Online Family Trees**".

We want to build on the research of others but those online family trees often contain miracles, mysteries and mayhem. Does the tree need to be pruned? Learn effective techniques to determine if branches on a tree are diseased or if they are healthy.

Jeanne Larzalere Bloom, CG is a full-time professional researcher specializing in Chicago and Cook County research, problem solving, and multi-generational family histories. She conducts research projects for government agencies, attorneys, authors, newspapers, heir-search firms, professional genealogists, family researchers. Jeanne writes articles for scholarly journals and society publications and is a frequent lecturer at conferences, workshops, and institutes.

Jeanne researched the ancestry of actor-comedian Jason Sudeikis, for the television series, "Who Do You Think You Are?", and appeared in that episode that first aired in May 2012. In April 2012 she was interviewed by National Public Radio about the release of the 1940 U.S. census.

You may visit the library's web page at:

www.SchaumburgLibrary.org

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

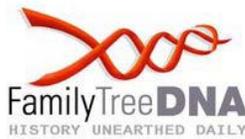
You can also visit the Genealogy Blog of the library that is authored by Tony Kierna. Visit the blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com> for all things related to genealogy and the genealogy programs at the Schaumburg Township District Library.

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Handout #6 – FAMILY TREE DNA REACHES HISTORIC 1,000,000 LEVEL ON DNA KITS PROCESSED

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated June 12, 2014.

The following announcement was written by the folks at Gene By Gene, Ltd.:



Family Tree DNA, the genetic genealogy arm of Gene by Gene, and the world leader in the field, announced today that it has processed over 1,000,000 DNA test kits results for genealogy and anthropology purposes.

This historic amount includes Family Tree DNA's tests as well the processing of public participation samples for National Geographic's Genographic Project (www.genographic.com). Family Tree DNA is the Genographic Project's genetic testing partner.

The million-test milestone was reached this week during the company's Father's Day sale, which includes the Family Finder test currently discounted at the affordable price of \$79.

The Family Finder test [finds relatives](#) within 5 generations, and gives a detailed geographic breakdown of where one's ancestors came from, by comparing a person's DNA to the DNA of other users in Family Tree DNA's massive database.

Family Tree DNA offers the widest range of [DNA testing services](#) in the field of genetic genealogy. The company prides itself on its commitment to the practice of solid, ethical science. Family Tree DNA has the largest database in the world for [matching purposes](#), which means increased chances of finding long lost relatives. In that regard, Family Tree DNA is an important resource for the three million people in the United States who either were adopted or descend from adoptees.

About Gene By Gene, Ltd.

Founded in 2000, Gene By Gene, Ltd. (<http://www.genebygene.com>) is a CAP-accredited and CLIA-registered genetic testing company that serves consumers, researchers, and physicians. Gene by Gene offers a wide range of regulated clinical diagnostic tests, as well as research use only (RUO) tests. The Family Tree DNA division (<http://www.familytreeDNA.com>) of Gene by Gene is a pioneer and leader in DNA testing for genealogy and ancestry. The company operates the largest genetic genealogy database in the world and has provided more than 5 million discrete genetic tests. Gene by Gene is privately held and headquartered in Houston, Texas.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Genealogical DNA is growing more each and every day. Family Tree DNA is a remarkable company offering these DNA testing services. One of the keys to consider when entertaining submitting your DNA for this kind of assessment is how big the "pool" is that would contain your results. The larger the "pool" of participants the better chance you have to receive meaningful connections to other as yet unknown cousins. Knowing the size of the total number of participants should be a point of consideration for you before you select the company to submit your sample.

The article above also notes that included in the 1,000,000 kits in the company "pool" of data also includes those that were tested in the National Geographic's Genographic Project. Perhaps more and more consolidation of DNA samples can be brought under one umbrella to allow the "pool" to get larger and larger and allow the submitter to have a better chance to find those unknown "cousins" under the umbrella of one database.

On top of their hitting 1,000,000 kits, you will also notice that the price for this offer was reduced again for a limited time to just \$79. I believe I reported to you within the last year that the price for the Family Finder product offered by Family Tree DNA had at that time been reduced from \$199 to \$99. That was also a promotional price discount for a certain period of time. However, once the time had expired for the reduced cost, the company then established the lower cost as the new baseline entry cost.

So is it possible the same will occur during this round of promotional discounting. Maybe what was the standard \$99 price may now be reduced to what was just in effect as the sale price of \$79. So if you needed a price incentive to consider submitting your DNA to a company that has now processed 1,000,000 kits, you may want to follow the website of Family Tree DNA at www.familytreedna.com to see if the \$79 price stays or if it perhaps rises back to the \$99 level.

Also consider that over the recent years the costs for these DNA kits has gone from about \$299 to the sale price of \$79. That is an incredible decline over just a few number of years. Could \$79 become the new standard price? Probably! Could we see even further declines in the future in the cost? Maybe! How about the next price level being \$49? Who knows.

If you have not submitted your DNA for genealogical testing, consider doing it although that by the time you read this the \$79 cost might return to the \$99 level. But I also realize that if we keep seeing price drops we might hold off on any submission because we believe the cost will drop again in a relatively short time. Sure you can wait and expect further price reductions but you will be losing the family time knowing of any family connections with current test results at current price levels. Whichever approach works for you!

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Handout #7 – “WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?” RETURNS TO THE LEARNING CHANNEL ON JULY 23, 2014

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated June 14, 2014.

TLC Network has signed on for another season of Shed Media US-produced *Who Do You Think You Are?*, will return with six new episodes this summer. The series, which delves into the ancestral history of public figures and celebrities, will feature contributors including Valerie Bertinelli, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Lauren Graham, Kelsey Grammer, Rachel McAdams and her sister Kayleen McAdams, and Cynthia Nixon.

The fifth season premieres on July 23 at 9 p.m. EST/PST. Check your local listings for the channel near you.

Comments by Tony Kierna

IT'S BACK!

Well, if you have been waiting with baited breath since the last episode of last year's "Who Do You Think You Are?" ended last year, your wait is over.

The show returns to The Learning Channel (TLC) that can be found on subscribable cable companies' channel offerings. Mark down Wednesday evening, July 23, 2014 on TLC at 8 PM Central Time. Or, if you don't have cable, you can always head over to the TLC website and view these episodes online usually with at least a day delay from the original broadcast day.

For some reason to me I have just not felt the hype or buzz about the new shows recently. In about April I was already searching the Internet to discover any information about when the series would return. Usually I find something but in this case I could not find anything except that which steered me to the TLC website with information about last year's shows. Same searching in May. Found nothing. I was actually thinking that it might be possible that the show would not find its way to the TV screen. Maybe the end had been reached.

Finally in early June 2014 I was finding something about the "buzz" for the new episodes. Not much but enough to make me feel that some new episode would make it to the screen.

I was a little surprised and disappointed that the "season" for 2014 will only consist of 6 episodes. If you thought it went fast with 8 episodes as was shown last year, you better be even quicker this year with only 6 episodes. When the show originated on NBC a few years ago, we generally saw 12 episodes. From 12 episodes to 6 is a pretty big decline that to me does not bode well for the future.

I will also say that not all of the names on the list above are recognizable by. I must be dating myself or showing signs of simply not being in touch with "today's" stars. In all honesty, I do not know who Jesse Tyler Ferguson is. Or I do not know who

Rachel McAdams is along with her sister. The others I know immediately, probably because I have seen their TV shows or movies they have been in that I cared about to see. Maybe the producers need to connect with some more superstars to showcase their genealogy. Or, since the show is viewed I would think by those interested in genealogy that are more likely to be 60+ in age, perhaps having more of the "stars" of our era on the show would help us connect better rather than to younger stars! I don't know but I guess that is why I am not in the TV business!

Your wait is about to be over. Don't get distracted with other shows because in the blink of a 6 week season it will all be over before it even started!

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Handout #8 – USE D/2 BIOLOGICAL SOLUTION TO CLEAN GRAVESTONES

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated June 1, 2014.



Genealogists and anyone else interested in preserving cemetery tombstones and other objects exposed to the weather should become familiar with D/2 Biological Solution. It is useful for cleaning tombstones without causing any damage to the stone.

The solution is safe for use and does not harm the tombstone. Even the highly-respected Association for Gravestone Studies recommends the product in the organization's FAQs (Frequently-Asked Questions) at <https://www.gravestonestudies.org/knowledge-center/faq-s#faqnoanchor>:

"Treat a wet gravestone with D/2 Biological Solution, scrub into a lather using a plastic bristle brush, and smooth the lather into the inscription to make the letters more readable. Afterward, rinse the stone thoroughly."

Further details may be obtained from *A Graveyard Preservation Primer, 1st Edition*, by Lynette Strangstad and published by the Association for Gravestone Studies at <http://goo.gl/xM4Qx4>.

D/2 Biological Solution is even used to clean the outside of the White House and also recently won a Veterans Administration contract to supply cleaner for over 3.5 million headstones and another contract to clean Civil War monuments at the Chickamauga battlefield. (Details may be found at <http://d2bio.com/news>.)

D/2 Biological Solution is a biodegradable, easy-to-use liquid that removes stains due to mold, algae, mildew, lichens and air pollutants. It is effective not only on tombstones, but also on marble, granite, limestone, brownstone, travertine, masonry, terra cotta, concrete, stucco, wood, and other architectural surfaces, including monuments and sculptures.

D/2 Biological Solution is easy to use. Apply it to the surface to be cleaned, preferably by using a soft-bristle brush. Wait 10 to 15 minutes, and then scrub the surface to be cleaned, again by using a soft nylon or natural bristle brush to loosen most biological and air pollutant staining. Never use a stiff brush or anything abrasive on a tombstone or other stone surface! Be sure to bring a watering can or

other water source along so that you can rinse the solution off the cleaned surface when you're done.

D/2 Biological Solution:

- is biodegradable
- will not harm plants, stone, animals or people
- contains no acids, salts, or chlorine
- is pH neutral
- will not etch metals or glass
- is not a hazardous material and requires no special handling or protection
- is used full strength with no in-field mixing required
- contains no carcinogenic compounds as defined by NTP, IARC, or OSHA
- is considered essentially non-toxic by swallowing
- requires no special ventilation during use
- has a shelf life of 5 years

D/2 Biological Solution is available in 1-gallon and 5-gallon containers and 55-gallon drums.

All in all, I'd suggest this is a good product used to clean many surfaces, including tombstones. You can learn more about D/2 Biological Solution at <http://d2bio.com>. It can be ordered from a number of distributors with a list available at <http://d2bio.com/buy-d2>. I also found it available in 1-gallon containers from Amazon at <http://goo.gl/LfebAH>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Well, it is "cemetery" season here in the Midwest. These are the hot, sunny, days to walk about the grounds of the cemeteries of interest to you to find your ancestors. And when you find them, guess what, you might not be able to read the gravestone markers that identify those valuable pieces of information you thought for sure you were going to discover while those beads of sweat roll down your face!

So what have you been left to do to make the mysteries of the unreadable words readable. And so you scrub, scrub and scrub some more with whatever you have in hand in your tool bag. Scrubbing isn't good enough? Try that bottle of specialized cleaner that will do the trick.

All of the above is just a recipe for disaster. All you wind up doing is weakening an unreadable stone even more making it subject for faster deterioration. There has got to be a better way.

*And now there apparently is. Consider adding D/2 Biological Solution to your arsenal of cemetery weapons to bring with you on your next cemetery outing. It has rave reviews. It is recommended by those in the know that want the ability to preserve stone identifiers far out into the future in as best of shape as possible. Without this valuable product we were only left with exercising more damaging efforts to make our stones readable. Now we have a very safe product that can accomplish all we want to make that unreadable stone readable. But we **MUST** also remember, that the solution itself is not just the safe answer. Researchers must also make use of*

soft bristled or nylon brushes to use with the solution. **DO NOT USE ANY STIFF BRISTLED BRUSHES WITH THE SOLUTION BECAUSE THE STIFF BRUSHES MAY CAUSE DAMAGE ALL UNTO THEMSELVES.**

This is also the "cemetery" season in the Midwest. It is a short window each year after the cruel snowy and cold days of winter and before the fall season when leaves and other plant detritus can cover the grounds and make reading those ground level stones nearly impossible. At best, we might have a 4 month window to do our cemetery hunting. Sometimes we might spend more time researching how to clean stones in the safest method possible during cemetery season and then discover the window for actual cemetery is already closing.

It sure looks like you can now forever remove the uncertainty of what cleaning process to use that leaves the stone undamaged by using this highly touted product. If the Association of Gravestone Studies recommends this product then I guess that is my Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval!

I did check one of the websites above for cost information. This product is not cheap. It appears it will cost you about \$40 for 1 gallon for this product. Yep! But in your heart you know you will not be damaging the stone by using the product.

So if you will be heading out to the cemetery during our short window of months for research, consider adding this product to your cemetery tool bag. At least you know if you encounter that unreadable gravestone, which we all will, you will have something in your bag to not make your trip a total waste of time.

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Handout #9 – “THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS ...”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the May/June 2014, Volume 18, Number 5 issue of Family Chronicle.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “The Cause of Death Was ...”. The author of the article was George G. Morgan.

Researching death data on our ancestors is one of the prime vital statistics genealogists strive for. Sometime we hit a homerun and find it supported by good documentation. Sometimes it is elusive. Sometimes we get varied information that does not give us clearly what we seek.

The author does a good job of revisiting many of the basic resources we can tap into to make these discoveries. He also identifies many that may not normally be on our “radar” screens.

Here are the categories we should consider using in our quest to discover the “cause of death” of our ancestors:

- **Death Certificates and Civil Registration Records** – are relatively recent in time as a document source; in the US, required document did not start until 1870s and many states did not implement until 1920s; much of what is included still needs to be researched and verified e.g. parent’s place of birth, mother’s maiden name etc.; civil registration common in other countries.
- **US Federal Census Mortality Schedules** – available for 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1885 (special for states or territories that disputed the 1880 census with the states paying 50% of the cost), 1890 and 1900 US Federal Census (did not survive for 1890 and 1900 due to destruction; Mortality Schedule noted who died in the year preceding the decennial census for the years noted; presence on Mortality Schedule helps explain not finding them in the regular census.
- **Cemetery Interment Records** – cemetery records may note cause of death even with the lack of death certificate in their possession; look for “Interment Books” often referred to as “Day Books”; can also use “cemetery lot” information that refers to the geography aspects of the burial location, ownership, purchased date etc. and the “primary marker” information that may shed light on the gravestone, mausoleum information for the deceased; files of the individuals buried should also exist that may include death certificate, transit permits to transfer body, burial permit, correspondence related to opening up the grave etc.
- **Home Sources Materials** – consider discovering family bibles, letters, journals, diaries, newspaper clippings for obituaries etc.; also think of

medical bills from a final illness, diagnostic tests and medical procedures.

- Newspaper Stories – there may be a detailed account in a local newspaper of the cause of death of an ancestor, especially if the death was sudden; if death was the result of an accident or an act of violence, there may be a news story.

The author also provides some advice on how to discover the real cause of death by being able to interpret the “medical” terms used by the doctor on the death certificate or other documents that describes it.

Medical terms describing cause of death have changed over the times. You need to understand the term used at the time of death and then translate it to what it may refer to today under terms used now. As an example, the author notes we may see the term “consumption” in the death description of an ancestor. The term used today to describe the situation today is “tuberculosis”. Another term used previously was “palsy”. Today, you would expect to see the term “paralysis”.

The author provides some other “older” terms we might discover and the associated new term that medical professionals use today to describe the same conditions. Here is that list:

- Old term “dropsy”; new term “edema”; often associated with fluid accumulation and swelling tied to congestive heart failure.
- Old term “brain fever”; new term “encephalitis” or “meningitis”; inflammation of the brain.
- Old term “lung fever”; new term “pneumonia”.
- Old term “Bright’s Disease”; new term “nephritis” or “renal disease”; kidney disease.
- Old term “Yellow Jacket” or “Yellow Jack” new term “yellow fever”.

As you research multiple generations within the same family line, keep your eyes open for similar illnesses, diseases and cause of death in the documentation. The author has noted that his research seems to indicate recurrences of kidney disease in four generations, coronary disease in five generations and various cancers in three generations.

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Handout #10 – “CORRECTING LONG-ACCEPTED RESEARCH IN THE INTERNET AGE”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the May/June 2014, Volume 18, Number 5 issue of Family Chronicle.

I thought that another article in this issue is one titled “Correcting Long-Accepted Research in the Internet Age”. The author of the article is John Laird.

John lays the case for trying to correct incorrect information that can so easily be put out there in online trees.

The author notes that the problem he discovered with his research traces back to a family history book that was published in 1976 titled ***The Descendants of Timothy Carpenter of Pittstown, Rensselaer County, New York*** by Charles L. Carpenter. The book describes the descendants of Jeremiah Carpenter. It is within the descendant line of Jeremiah that the author has discovered errors contained within the original book.

A quick lesson to be learned is that well-intentioned and masterfully constructed family history books from years past can still contain errors. Working within the technology of the original publishing and the research methodologies of the time can still create errors that find their way to printing just as errors can be created in an all-electronic research process today. An error is an error whether it intentional or accidental. And those errors can just get duplicated over and over even more so today in today's digital age of electronic processing.

Researchers today cannot assume all is correct or accurate whether it was found in electronic versions or in published books formats from days past. If a work has citations then these citations must be checked out by repeating the process. If a work does not have citations, be suspicious from the start. Use the material as a starting point to verify the stated relationships in the family tree.

The author has redone original research and has discovered errors with the children of Jeremiah Carpenter. With the help of other descendants of Jeremiah the goal was not only to correct the original errors but also to share what the corrections in fact are for descendants of Jeremiah Carpenter. The author looked at the creation of this article in this journal as one of the steps to get the corrected word out to other researchers.

Since much of the original research was done using censuses of 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820 one can be somewhat suspect of information discovered. These censuses that applied to this family only listed the head of household and did not name anyone else in the family. Only tabulations by age-ranges for children is included. Thus, exactness of births of children is uncertain. In addition, relationships to head of household are not identified in these censuses. Thus nieces, nephews, grandchildren that are unnamed in these censuses might be assumed to be the children of the

head of household when they are in fact not. Researchers can begin to see how things can go awry early on if published material indicates a child as a son or daughter when that child is actually a niece or granddaughter. And the error is multiplied out with each additional generation.

Another answer discovered in this article also relates to research methodology that is critical. Citing your sources is absolutely necessary. The author feels that this project showed him firsthand how documenting resources is important. Using genealogical software to enter all of the research also helped show omissions that could then further be researched and filled in with correct information.

The author plans to post the correct descendant information for his family line online. He will also work the message boards to state the corrected history to those readers. He will even go as far as having libraries include the newly correct version in their materials where the family line is described. Those having online trees that include the incorrect information will also be contacted in order for them to be aware of the corrected material to now include in their own uploaded family trees.

The author does not diminish the work of the original family history author back to 1976. Other resources used by that original author also included errors that were brought into the original publication. The article notes that an error in transcription from an original document to a book document led the original author to include material that was incorrect. The article states that something as simple as a transcription error where the name "Giles" was in error transcribed as "Silas" led to the path of errors multiplied through the generations.

I thought the article really provided a great learning lesson. Just because you find material in printed books does not guarantee the information is accurate. You need to take that information as a starting point and work it backwards with the hope you can create the same results as the original author using the same cited sources. And the author has taken a correction discovered to a further level of spreading the correction out into the genealogy community and not just keeping the correction to themselves.

This article is well-worth a complete read so that researchers can understand the importance of questioning what online material you may encounter that looks good to include in your own research. Check it out! Do not assume it is accurate!

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