



HANDOUTS TABLE OF CONTENTS September 9, 2014

| | |
|---|---------|
| <u>Handout Introduction</u> | Page 2 |
| <u>Schaumburg Township District Library (STDL) Genealogy Blog</u> | Page 4 |
| <u>Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society (New Name!) (NWSGS) Program for October 4, 2014</u> | Page 5 |
| <u>DuPage County Genealogical Society (DCGS) Program for September 17, 2014</u> | Page 7 |
| <u>Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois (CAGGNI) Program for September 20, 2014</u> | Page 8 |
| <u>Schaumburg Township District Library (STDL) October 14, 2014 Genealogy Program</u> | Page 9 |
| <u>How NOT To Clean A Gravestone For FindAGrave</u> | Page 10 |
| <u>Providing Headstones For Veterans' Unmarked Graves</u> | Page 12 |
| <u>Hancock County, Sparta, Georgia Courthouse Burned</u> | Page 14 |
| <u>"Top Genealogy Blogs 2014 Edition"</u> | Page 16 |
| <u>"What's New WorldCat?"</u> | Page 19 |

September 9, 2014 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our September 9, 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 GENEALOGY SOCIETY (NEW NAME – FORMERLY KNOWN AS NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COUNCIL OF GENEALOGISTS) ON OCTOBER 4, 2014

THE SOCIETY WILL BE MEETING ON THE 1ST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH STARTING AT 10:00 AM AT THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SENIOR CENTER (NOTE LOCATION CHANGE BELOW FOR THIS MEETING ONLY) 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 Genealogy Society (formerly known as the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists) will take place on Saturday morning, October 4, 2014. The program for the morning is titled **"Finishing the Story"**. The speaker for the morning will be **Jennifer Holik**.

Tracing the life of a World War I or II soldier can be challenging. Many researchers are unaware of the many records and resources available outside of the usual genealogical record sources. Explore the lives, service, and deaths of three soldiers, through the usual genealogical records and learn about numerous military resources available. Through a brief reading from her new book *Stories of the Lost*, Jennifer will demonstrate how to write the stories of your Soldier.

This meeting will take place at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library, 500 Dunton St., Arlington Heights, IL 60005 at 10:00 AM instead of at the normal location of the Arlington Heights Senior Center. There is a round table discussion that takes place at 9:00 AM prior to the main meeting/program that starts at 10:00 AM. Participants are invited to attend this round table and bring their research questions for discussion.

Meetings normally take place at the Arlington Heights Senior Center (except for this particular meeting noted above), 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**

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 SEPTEMBER 20, 2014 AT THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SENIOR CENTER (PLEASE NOTE LOCATION)

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, September 20, 2014 at the Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 West Central Road, Arlington Heights, IL, starting at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is "Getting the Most Out of the InternetArchive.org". The speaker will be Kristen McCallum.

PLEASE NOTE THE LOCATION FOR THIS PROGRAM. IT IS NOT AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY.

The InternetArchive.org has a lot to offer genealogists, but it isn't always easy to find what you're looking for. Learn how to use this amazing site to resurrect old web sites, browse census records and passenger lists, and search county histories.

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.

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 #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON OCTOBER 14, 2014

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, October 14, 2014. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Steve Szabados. Steve will present a program titled "Genealogy Research – Beyond the Basics".

Learn techniques to solve your brick walls. Overcome problems with the spelling of surnames; learn to search in the correct location and review cases that will help unlock the early U.S. census records. Steve reviews various advanced search techniques that he has used to find the documents for his family histories.

Steve Szabados is a retired project manager. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois and a MBA from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois.

He has been researching his ancestors for about ten years and has traced ancestors back to 1600s New England and 1730's in Poland, Germany, Bohemia and Slovenia. He has given numerous presentations to genealogical groups and libraries in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. His goal is to share his passion for Family History.

He is a board member for the Polish Genealogical Society of America and is a member of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists and he is also a genealogy volunteer at the Arlington Heights Illinois Library. He is the author of two books – Finding Grandma's European Ancestors and Find Your Family History: Steps to get started. Both are must have books for the beginning genealogist looking for their European heritage. Steve also is the genealogy columnist for the Polish American Journal.

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 – “HOW “NOT” TO CLEAN A GRAVESTONE FOR FINDAGRAVE”

The following was found at Dick Eastman’s Blog at www.eogn.com dated August 4, 2014.

I recently wrote (at <http://wp.me/p5Z3-As>) an article about a person who damaged tombstones in a Tennessee cemetery by using a wirebrush to scrape the stones, making the letters more visible. Of course, it also created irreversible damage in the process.

Newsletter reader “ljellis2000” now has posted an update: the culprit has been found, arrested, and charged with a felony offense. The man reportedly said, “... that he did not realize his actions were causing any harm.”

Under Tennessee law, unauthorized tampering with or damaging gravestones is a Class E felony, and — once damaged — antique tombstones can rarely be returned to their former appearance. Rough brushing or cleaning with harsh chemicals can further weaken or completely destroy the often illegible inscriptions on stones that are already deteriorated because of age and exposure to the elements.

Details may be found in The Rogersville Review at <http://goo.gl/hEUvUd>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

As summer becomes to come to an end in our area so too do our cemetery research trips come to an end. When we do our cemetery research looking at physical evidence of headstones, you will encounter the proverbial stone created 100 years ago that has not weathered very well over the years. It will be difficult at best to read and may very well be impossible. No researcher is immune from these sad discoveries of unreadable headstones.

There are certain methods you can utilize to enhance the readability of these difficult headstones. Simple soap and water applied with a soft sponge. Rinse the soapy residue gently and wipe with a soft towel in a gentle fashion. Also, consider using a mirror to reflect sunlight onto the headstone. The sunlight does have the ability to make the inscription somewhat more readable. But PLEASE do NOT ever think of using a stiff WIRE BRUSH to apply to a headstone thinking you will remove material to make it more readable. You might, as noted above, but you will do permanent harm to an already weathered headstone.

It is fascinating that the culprit may have started with good intentions. He was actually trying to help fellow genealogy researchers who were asking for help in getting pictures of the headstones. He made his own situation worse when he actually photographed the “damaged” headstones and uploaded them to FindAGrave.com. It was not just 1 headstone that was damaged. With his “good” intentions he actually damaged about 70! The cemetery dated back to 1780.

He provided all kinds of connecting information with his upload that made it possible for local law enforcement agents to track him down and arrest him for violation of “Trespass on or Injury to Cemetery Property”. “Under Tennessee law, unauthorized

tampering with or damaging gravestones is a Class E felony, and — once damaged — antique tombstones can rarely be returned to their former appearance.”

Our world is loaded with good intentions that go horribly awry. This is one of those incidents.

The lesson you can take away from this is that no action should be taken with headstones that can damage them just for the sole purpose of making them somewhat more readable for you. And there are state laws in place that can turn your good intentions into you becoming a felon.

I strongly urge you to read the full article via the link contained in Dick Eastman's article above. It is mind-blowing to think what happened, how it was documented and how the culprit was caught!

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Handout #7 – LEGISLATION FOR PROVIDING HEADSTONES FOR VETERAN'S UNMARKED GRAVES

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated August 8, 2014.



The "Honor Those Who Served Act of 2014" would enable veterans service agencies, military researchers, historians or genealogists to request a free headstone or marker from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for a veteran's grave.

Until 2012 the VA provided headstones for unmarked veterans' graves based on documentation of that vet's identity and service provided by these groups or individuals. That policy was then changed, limiting headstone requests to a veteran's next-of-kin or authorized family representative – a difficult requirement when dealing with graves dating back 100 years or more, and unknown family descendants. (The policy does not apply to replacement of worn, illegible or damaged markers.)

The proposed new legislation will change that policy again, making it possible for non-relatives to obtain a headstone for a documented veteran.

You can read more in an article by Brian Albrecht in The Plain Dealer at <http://goo.gl/dPkRCn>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

I know for me personally it is very sad when my on-site cemetery research discovers that an ancestor was laid to rest without the benefit of an identifying stone marker. I just find it difficult to understand that a family does not provide for this final marker to let anyone know that a loved one lies below. But the realities of life kick in and the realization that the economics of cost might have very well impacted a family from making that final act of identification possible. No laws are being broken. Headstones are not mandated. But yet I feel if all other things related to burial have taken place, the creation of a headstone should be an automatic.

You will discover in your own research many examples of ancestors buried without a headstone. It is not that common but it still may have you wondering why this particular individual that lies below you is not identified with a stone.

One of the things you may discover is that an ancestor was in the military, passed away and was buried without any headstone. The fact that the deceased was a military veteran may also make it harder for you to accept that there is no headstone

to at least honor their name. You might have even taken up the torch to lead the way to provide for a headstone for this deceased veteran. Our government has been there to provide funds for a headstone to be created for such a situation and placed on the grave. If the deceased were more directly connected to you on your family tree, you were probably able to make the creation of a headstone happen with funding provided by the federal government.

The situation became more complicated when the deceased military veteran was not in any way a direct family tree connection to you. You then had to work a lot harder doing research on the descendants of the deceased to identify them and then work the headstone creation process through them. If they expressed no interest or desire to be involved you would still have a deceased military veteran unable to have a headstone created for them because the direct next of kin or family representative would have to be the ones to make it happen.

Now that policy does appear to be changing. As a researcher who may not actually be considered "next of kin" you will now be allowed to start the process to obtain a headstone for the deceased military veteran. You will no longer have to discover descendants and have them start the process. Amazingly, this process had been in place through 2012 and was changed at that time to make it more difficult to obtain a headstone. Our legislators appear to have seen a different light at this time to allow the policy to return to the way it was in 2012.

So if your genealogy research discovers an ancestral military veteran that is perhaps somewhat connected to you or not even connected to you, you can work with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and to have a headstone created for the unmarked grave of a deceased military veteran. You will no longer have to discover descendants of that deceased person anymore to have them initiate the request with the VA.

The article above does note that this policy applies when no headstone exists. If a headstone exists and is worn or damaged, correction of that situation will fall onto the family to correct.

Perhaps your own research may uncover these situations. Now, if you choose, you will be able to initiate a request for a headstone for a documented military veteran who does not have a headstone to identify the grave.

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Handout #8 – HANCOCK COUNTY, GEORGIA COURTHOUSE IN SPARTA, GEORGIA DESTROYED BY FIRE

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



(All that remains of the Hancock County Courthouse)

Another huge loss for genealogists and historians: Property deeds, birth and marriage certificates and many other vital records dating back to 1795 were destroyed when most of the Hancock County Courthouse in Sparta burned down early Monday.

The fire broke out around 3 a.m. on Monday, August 11. When fire crews arrived, the building was engulfed in flames. The cause of the blaze is unknown. The building and its contents appear to be a total loss.



(An earlier photo of the Hancock County Courthouse)

Some of the records held in the Sparta County Courthouse apparently were microfilmed some years ago. The FamilySearch catalog lists copies of many of the earlier records as being available on microfilm and/or online. However, fewer listings are shown for twentieth century records.

You can read more in the WMAZ web site at <http://goo.gl/1RVjjo>.

My thanks to newsletter reader W. David Samuelson for telling me the sad news.

Comments by Tony Kierna

The courthouse really did burn down! I say that because many times genealogy researchers often use that as a mythical excuse for why they cannot find records for their ancestors. Sometimes based on these "stories" of courthouses burning down, one could draw the conclusion that all of them have burned down! The stark before and after pictures really show what once was is no longer there! This courthouse really did burn down.

But sad to say, this was an actual fire that totally destroyed the Hancock Count, Georgia courthouse. I feel bad for any of you that may have a connection to that area and have not researched records that may very well apply to your ancestors. For the most part most of us will not even be affected by this calamity.

One saving grace does appear to be that much of the older more historic data had been filmed by the Family History Library and is available as microfilms for rental through them. But the article does note that it is likely that the more recent records that were destroyed would not have been microfilmed by the Family History Library.

The article that is linked above does not go into any great deal on the records themselves that were destroyed. It did mention that this is the 3rd courthouse built on the site. It was built in 1883. The article does note that the courthouse is considered "historic" and had been placed on the "Places in Peril" list.

Arson is not suspected. The article quoted that the building was having some renovations done but there is uncertainty at this time as to whether the renovations could have contributed to the fire. No cause has yet been determined. The article also did mention that the building was having problems with "squirrels".

Hopefully, the story will show that somehow copies of the materials destroyed existed outside of this structure. Such copies can be used going forward. But maybe that was wishful thinking and no backups existed outside of what microfilms exist in the possession of the Family History Library.

The lesson to be learned is that you must have your own research materials backed up either in paper format or in digital format. Those backups must exist as copies in multiple locations. In the cloud, on a flashdrive, on a portable hard drive. They must be in the hands of relatives outside of your home. If a disaster strikes you, you will at least have the potential of making a document recovery from copied materials.

As the story unfolds more over time, we will hear how disastrous this event was from a lost records perspective.

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Handout #9 – “TOP GENEALOGY BLOGS 2014 EDITION”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the August/September 2014, Volume 9, Number 3 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that a very good article in this issue is one titled “Top Genealogy Blogs: 2014 Edition”. The author of the article is Tony Bandy. Tony does an incredible job when he creates an article on technology reviews as well as on blog reviews. He puts in a great deal of work to make his “lists” of the best very comprehensive and insightful for the reader. I always recommend to fully read an article like this and even to make a personal copy for future use. Many times we are looking for some new genealogy software or blogs to follow that will help us preserve or improve our research in the best way possible.

Genealogy blogs are one of the best ways to further your genealogy research but to also use in a way that helps others in their research efforts. Blogs are easily available for free from places like WordPress, Blogger, BlogSpot and the like. All you have to do is register yourself and away you go to blog for free. Blogs can also be self-hosted for which you will need a website that undoubtedly will cost you something. But with blogs on self-hosted sites you can gain even more capabilities in presentation of material than you can on the free blogs. So it is your choice on how to go about spreading your message. Starting out free may be the best way to start and then perhaps going in the direction of self-hosting for a cost may be the next step if you feel you want more control over your material.

Tony Bandy in his article presents his materials into established categories he has chosen to identify blogs. Within each of his blogs that he mentions he provides a name of the blog, a web address and a summary of the blog. For purposes of brevity, I will present you with the blog name and location and will skip the sometimes detailed summary description simply because of the size of those descriptions. You can always access this journal and make a personal copy of the full article so that you can fully read the summary description of the blog provided by Tony Bandy. I want to be able to provide you with enough information to allow you to get to the blog and to explore the blog on your own.

Tony Bandy has chosen the following categories of blogs:

- Corporate-Business
- Governmental
- Organizational
- Other
- Personal
- Lots of Blogs

Corporate-Business

Ancestry.com @ <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry>

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter @ <http://blog.eogn.com>

FamilySearch @ <http://familysearch.org/blog>

MyHeritage @ <http://blog.myheritage.com>

Family wise Limited @ <http://family-wise.co.uk/blog>

Clooz @ http://clooz.com/clooz_blog.php

Legacy Family Tree @ <http://news.legacyfamilytree.com>

Governmental

The National Archives (UK) @ <http://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

The National Archives (US) @ <http://blogs.archives.gov>

Library and Archives Canada @ <http://thediscoverblog.com>

Organizational

Mid-Continent Public Library @ www.mymcpl.org/blog/Genealogy

Ontario Genealogical Society @ www.ogs.on.ca/ogs_blog.php

Upfront with NGS @ <http://upfront.ngsgenealogy.org>

Other

About.com Genealogy @ <http://genealogy.about.com>

On-Line Journal of Genetics and Genealogy @ <http://jgg-online.blogspot.com>

Genealogy and History News @ www.gouldgenealogy.com

Personal

GeneaMusings @ www.geneamusings.com

Genealogy A La Carte @ <http://genealogyalacarte.ca>

Armchair Genealogist @ www.thearmchairgenealogist.com

(going) The Extra Yard @ <http://extrayad.blogspot.com>

Tika's Teachings @ <http://tikasteachings.blogspot.com>

Lots of Blogs

Cyndis List @ www.cyndislist.com/blogs

GeneaBloggers @ <http://geneabloggers.com/genealogy-blogs>

Google Blogs @ www.google.com/blogsearch (Discontinued)

CanGenealogy @ <http://cangenealogy.com/blogs.html>

This is a nice handy listing of the top blogs available to peruse. Explore them, bookmark your favorites. Follow the author with their new posts. Consider creating your own free blog. Write to your heart's content and share your family history. Your visibility with a blog might very well bring those undiscovered cousins out of their hiding places for you to make a connection. Who knows? Your blog may be so good that you will be on Tony Bandy's next list of best blogs!

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Handout #10 – “WHAT’S NEW WORLDCAT?”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the August/September 2014, Volume 9, Number 3 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled “What’s New, WorldCat? The author of this article is Carol Richey.

WorldCat is a “catalog of catalogs”. It is a way for libraries to share cataloging information. You can now search WorldCat online free of charge at www.worldcat.org. WorldCat is one of our libraries online databases available to users in the library and from home. If you want to know what is in the holdings of your local library you would access that catalog and do your search to determine availability. Start thinking even larger in scope. If you want to discover genealogical material of importance to you search, consider using WorldCat to discover what library within the WorldCat system has the material you seek. If the library is close to you geographically you might consider making a trip to it to view and/or possibly check out the material. If the library is too far from you take the easy method of providing the printout of where the material was found outside of your library to your in-house Inter Library Loan group and ask them to try to obtain the material for you to use.

The author of the article notes 5 major reasons to take a closer look at what WorldCat offers today and how it could help your research. The 5 reasons noted are:

- ***It is a unique library tool for finding and accessing materials for you online.*** You can find indexes to births, marriages and deaths, burial records, probate records and much more. You can find book results that may be in book format, electronic format or microfilm. Don’t forget to use it for journals and periodicals that might contain articles of note to you. You may even be directed to digital collections of an archive, a museum or even a university. As you can see you are linked to libraries out of your more familiar local public library. As large as WorldCat is with participating libraries, it is still possible that an individual library may not be a member of WorldCat.
- ***WorldCat is constantly growing!*** It took 34 years for WorldCat to hit the magic 1 Billion mark of materials in its collection. Just last year WorldCat registered its 2 billionth record, more than doubling its numbers in just 8 years. There are 25,900 member libraries, archives and museums in 170 countries and territories. WorldCat also partners with 300 non-library organizations.
- ***The world’s largest online library catalog now includes holdings from the world’s largest genealogical collection from FamilySearch and other large genealogy specialists.*** You can now search the Family History Library catalog from within WorldCat. You can also tap in to the holdings of the Allen County Public Library,

Newberry Library, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Library of Congress and the National Archives to name a few of the larger contributors. Also consider being able to access Google Books, google Scholar, Internet Archive and many others.

- ***New options make WorldCat even more user friendly.*** Once discovered, an item can now be obtained if it indicates it is in your local public library. If not, work with your local public library to obtain a copy via interlibrary loan. ***If the material cannot be made available to use because it is considered Reference material, then scans of pages of interest might be made available to you.*** Not sure about the material, WorldCat might have a small preview of the material. ***You can register yourself for a free account with WorldCat. This will allow you to save searches, mark items as favorites, create public or private lists to track your finds and more.*** There are now even cloud-based apps, one being WorldCat Discovery Services.
- ***WorldCat now includes even more digitized records.*** Participating libraries within WorldCat are loading more and more digital data to WorldCat. The author gives an example of looking for historical maps of Nebraska and discovering that there are 200 downloadable hits. The author could then use the WorldCat link to discover the material available online for viewing.

WorldCat is a tool to become familiar with and use as needed, especially if you know the name of a book for which you are simply trying to discover which library has it in its collection. But it is so much more as the author has suggested within the above five reasons to discover “new” things within WorldCat.

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