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October 14, 2014

October 14, 2014 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our October 14, 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.

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 NOVEMBER 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 Genealogy Society (New Name) will take place on Saturday morning, November 1, 2014. The program for the morning is titled **"Why My Austro-Hungarian Ancestors Were Neither Austrian Nor Hungarian!"**. The speaker for the morning will be **Dr. Paul Valasek**.

Discussions on the state of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Europe's second largest, and the make-up of numerous ethnic minorities who legally belonged to the Empire but ethnically were neither Austrian nor Hungarian. Covering Austrians, Hungarians, Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Rusyns, Ukrainians, Jews, Croatians, Slovenians, Bosnians, Silesians, Serbians.

Paul Valasek is a three time graduate of Loyola University of Chicago, earning his Doctorate in Dentistry in 1984. Born and raised in Chicago, he and his wife Andrea have always been interested in their ancestries and where their families came from in Europe. Paul's first of numerous trips to Europe was in 1974 with his immigrant grandfather Joseph Valasek, a major turning point in his life. Formal participation in genealogy began with his Presidency of the Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA), founder and treasurer/editor of the Czech and Slovak American Genealogical Society of Illinois (CSAGSI), founding member of the Moravian Historical Society, and a founding member of the popular Polish American website, www.PolishRoots.org. He has also served as a Director and Second Vice-president on the Illinois State Genealogical Society's Board as well as sitting for multiple terms on the board of the Polish Museum of America. Currently he is a Director of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, (CGSI).

This meeting will take place at the Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 W. Central Rd., 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/program 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 OCTOBER 15, 2014

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, October 15, 2014. The program scheduled for that evening is **"Cyber Sleuthing Your Family Tree"**. The speaker for the program will be **Tina Beaird**.

The program will take place at the Wheaton Public Library in the Lower Level. The address of the library is 225 N. Cross St. in Wheaton, IL.

You may visit the society's web page at:

www.dcgs.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 OCTOBER 18, 2014 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, October 18, 2014 at the Schaumburg Township District Library, Schaumburg, IL starting at 10:30 AM.   The program scheduled for this day is **"Dating Photographs Through Costume"**. The speaker will be **Ellie Carlson.**

"Some people are married to their jobs, Ellie dates costumes." Family photographs are hard to date once the generation pictured has passed away. Determining an approximate date for an unidentified photo may help you to know whether the woman is your grandmother or your great-grandmother. This is where costume dating can be helpful. Fashion, especially women's fashion, was very distinctive in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Becoming familiar with certain popular silhouettes enables one to assign a date range to a photograph, thus helping to identify those pictured. Basic facial recognition will also be covered which will help identify the same person in several photos over time. There are some good, easy tricks which you will learn in this workshop-format presentation. Please send photographs you want "dated" to programs@caggni.org and Ellie will try to date them for you using the techniques outlined in the presentation.

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 NOVEMBER 11, 2014

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, November 11, 2014. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Marsha Peterson-Maass. Marsha will present a program titled "Swab Your Cheek - How To Make the Most of DNA Kinship Results".

"Swab Your Cheek: How to Make the Most of DNA Kinship Results" will help you make sense of today's three commercially available DNA tests (mtDNA, Y-DNA and Autosomal-DNA), which ancestral lines of descent each test applies to, and what your current options are for networking to find DNA kinship matches (including the accredited method for preparing your Pedigree Charts to share on those networking databases). We'll even take a look at real life DNA results and the kinship networking opportunities they have revealed.

Topics are covered from the Fundamentals of Genealogy(R): Medical Family Tree Workbook and Fundamentals of Genealogy(R): Basics for Everyone . . . textbooks are distributed before the lecture so participants can peruse them during the lecture and can optionally purchase to take home for $20/each (this price is a 20% discount).

Marsha Peterson-Maass got her first formal training in genealogy at the Newberry Library-Chicago, in the beginner's class that she now teaches called "Fundamentals of Genealogy: Basics for Everyone" (with accompanying textbook she wrote). This is a 13-hour class that Newberry offers for three consecutive Saturdays every March, as part of Newberry Adult Education Seminars. Today, along with teaching and lecturing on a wide range of genealogy topics, Marsha has a thriving forensic genealogy practice.

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 – NEW IMAGES ADDED TO PERIODICAL SOURCE INDEX (PERSI)

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

The Periodical Source Index, or PERSI, is the largest subject index to genealogy and local history periodical articles in the world. It is an index to more than 2.5 million entries from thousands of historical, genealogical and ethnic publications. Most of PERSI's articles are from periodicals covering the United States and Canada, but you can also find thousands of genealogy and local history entries (in both English and French) from Britain, Ireland and Australia.

Created by the staff of the Allen County Public Library Foundation and the ACPL's Genealogy Center, PERSI is widely recognized as a vital tool for genealogical researchers. For years, PERSI was available in a series of books but now is available online at the FindMyPast web site. PERSI is updated frequently. Now FindMyPast has images to the indexes, allowing the user to access articles, photos, and other material that might be difficult to find using other research methods. PERSI's titles may be searched free of charge although viewing the contents found requires a paid FindMyPast subscription.

According to the [FindMyPast Blog](), the list of images added to periodicals in the past month include:

Aberdeen Journal Notes and Queries, 1908-1914
Ancestor, 1903-1905
American Historical Magazine/Americana With V.4n.4, 1906-1909
Americana, 1909-1923
American Colonial Tracts Monthly, 1897-1898
American Heraldic Journal, 1901-1902
American Irish Historical Society Journal, 1898-1900; 1904-1907; 1909-1922
American Quarterly Register / Quarterly Register and Journal of the American Education Society, 1827-1843
Biennial Report of the Department of Archives & History, 1904; 1915
Cayuga County Historical Society Collections, 1879; 1882; 1889-1890
Collectanea Topographica Et Genealogica, 1834-1838; 1840-1841; 1843
Connecticut Historical Society Annual Report, 1890-1923
Cork Historical and Archaelogical Society Journal, 1896
Curio, 1887-1888
Deutsche Pionier, 1869-1873

Dutchess County Historical Society Year Book, 1914-1916; 1918-1919; 1921

You can search PERSI at http://search.findmypast.com/search/periodical-source-index.

Comments by Tony Kierna

The Periodical Source Index (PERSI) is a valuable research tool that has been around for quite a while. It is maintained by the Allen County Public Library.   They put together a massive index of journal material based on all the journals they have in their genealogical collection.

Here is a lengthier description of what PERSI actually is that I found in the FamilySearch Wiki:

"The Periodical Source Index, or PERSI, is the largest subject index to genealogy and local history periodical articles in the world.[1] Created by the staff of the Allen County Public Library Foundation and the ACPL's Genealogy Center, PERSI is widely recognized as a vital tool for genealogical researchers. PERSI indexes articles in 11,000 periodical titles (including 3,000 defunct titles) published by thousands of local, state, national and international societies and organizations, arranging 2.25 million entries by surname or location and 22 basic subject headings. An important tool for genealogists looking for new avenues of investigation, PERSI's usefulness is not limited to family history researchers. Local historians and academics, archaeologists and demographers, as well as students from elementary to graduate school and beyond, will all find PERSI an important asset in their research."

Lately, this tool seems to have not been as visible as it once previously was. At one time it was available through Heritage Quest, a common genealogy database of materials that libraries subscribe to. Then it moved under the umbrella of Ancestry.com. It stopped existing under Ancestry and did not seem to find a very visible home associated with a genealogy data provider.

Now it seems to have a new home under the umbrella of FindMyPast.com. Use the above link to discover this great tool. I went to the site from the above link and I did try using the resource. At the very top of the page you will see a general "Search Box" within which you can enter in a "Surname", a "Location" and/or a "Keyword". If you start entering in a surname, the system will give you an indication if the surname is contained in the entirety of the database. When I tried KIERNA, it told me it had a KIERNAN but no KIERNA. So watch for this to appear. I then switched to the surname FICHT and it did present me with that name in its list. It will also provide you with surnames that contain the basic name you entered e.g. it also provided me with FICHTNER and others.

If you enter in multiple entries, make sure you use the "Clear Search" link above the search box to clear all your entries before starting a new search. Otherwise, you may see results come up as "0" if you left an item in one of the boxes previously used.

You will be presented with a list of results that contains your search term(s). The journal article name, journal name and issue will be noted. If you click on the INDEX link, you will be faced with registering for "free" to access the details or you will be reminded that if you already subscribe to FindMyPast to enter in your login information. I believe the "free" registration will last for a short time and then ultimately you will face the decision to subscribe to FindMyPast for a fee in order to be able to fully use PERSI at a future date.

The nice thing about PERSI via FindMyPast is that if you subscribe to FindMyPast you will ultimately be able to access the digital copies of the articles through your subscription. Until such a massive conversion takes place to allow this, you might still need to obtain copies of the articles directly from Allen County or through your home library as an interlibrary loan request.

When you are on the initial search page, don't forget to look at the left sidebar of the sight. There is an entire set of "filters" you can use in combination with your search to limit and narrow down meaningful hits. There are filters for Last Name, Country, State, County, Town, Subject, Article Keyword, Periodical Title, Publisher and Publication Year. These worked very nicely. You click the boxes offered to limit your results that include your selection. You can easily uncheck your filters.

If you currently subscribe to FindMyPast you can benefit the most from using this tool. You may not find many full digital articles but that will change in the future. If you do not currently subscribe, you can use the tool but you will not be able to access the full article. You will know what journal and issue an article is in that might be promising but you will have to access the article through a cost from Allen County or ask for an interlibrary loan through your local library at no cost.

I am glad that this tool does seem more readily available. I can only hope that it will grow more and will be with FindMyPast for a longer time than it was with its previous associates.

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Handout #7 – MACBRIDGE FOR ROOTSMAGIC 6; RUN ROOTSMAGIC ON YOUR MAC WITHOUT WINDOWS

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

The RootsMagic team has announced a major product announcement that will interest many Macintosh owners: A new, low-cost piece of software will allow Macintosh owners to run RootsMagic without installing a copy of Microsoft Windows. The following is a copy-and-paste from the RootsMagic Blog:

One of the most common questions we are asked is, "When will RootsMagic run on a Mac?" With today's release of MacBridge for RootsMagic 6, the answer is "right now". MacBridge for RootsMagic 6 allows you easily install and run RootsMagic on your Mac in mere minutes with almost no additional setup or configuration.

MacBridge for RootsMagic is different than other solutions you may be familiar with. For starters, it does not install Windows on your Mac. It also does not create a slow and bulky virtual computer. It runs right on your Mac, using your Mac file system. You can even put the RootsMagic icon on your dock for easy one-click access! So while we are busily working on an actual native Mac version of RootsMagic, MacBridge for RootsMagic 6 gives you the ability to work on a Mac today.

You can read more in the RootsMagic Blog at:

http://blog.rootsmagic.com/?p=2217.

Comments by Tony Kierna

For Mac users this announcement is rather important and welcoming. For many Mac users lineage software is generally limited in availability. This is often due to the reality that the Mac universe of desktop/laptop equipment only comprises about 5% to 10% of the computing world. So developers often focus on where the majority of equipment is for development. The Mac share has increased as a percent of the total PC universe over the last years but it is still rather small in comparison to the total.

For Mac users we are left to generally select lineage programs from Reunion by Leister Productions and Family Tree Maker for Mac by Ancestry.com. These are very

good programs. Even though we do not have a large pool to pick from, what does exist for Mac users is still quite good in quality.

Now RootsMagic has announced a rather unique innovation for Mac users. They are now making available a "bridge" program that will allow the PC version of RootsMagic to run on Macs without having to have a Windows operating system Installed. In fact, RootsMagic is committed to developing a Mac native version of its popular lineage product in the near future. The bridge is a temporary process to allow you to try RootsMagic now on your Mac while a fully native Mac version of RootsMagic is being developed.

You can download this bridge program for a sale price of $9.95. The bridge represents the "free" version of software offered by RootsMagic. So yes, you have to pay a fee to gain access to a Mac version of the "free" RootsMagic program. Check out the link in Dick's blog post about this new development.

I have actually paid for and downloaded this bridge program to my iMac operating the OS version known as Mavericks. It was a painless process. The download was fast, the payment process was fast and secure. Now I have the free version of RootsMagic on my Mac. And I like it. I was able to import my GEDCOM from Reuion into this version of RootsMagic. It took a blink of the eye and it seems to look like the import went very good.

Now I can give RootsMagic a try on my Mac. Now there is further competition with Reunion and Family Tree Maker for Mac. Plus I will now be able to test out RootsMagic within the limits of what is offered in the equivalent "free" version. If I really like it, I can wait patiently while RootsMagic completes development of its native program built for the Mac.

Remember, that a GEDCOM file can be brought into just about any other lineage program. It does not matter if you are using a Mac lineage program creating a GEDCOM and bringing it into a Windows lineage program. That is the beauty of the more universal nature of GEDCOM. This can be nice as a backup but also as a way to use functions in one program that might not exist in the one you are currently using.

So Mac users if you want to try another version of a lineage program outside of Reunion and Family Tree Maker for Mac, you now have the ability to give RootsMagic a test drive on your Mac.

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Handout #8 – SAVING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY SECURELY IN THE CLOUD

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated August 25, 2014.

Many of us have pictures or information that we want to keep on our home computers or devices, but in case of fire or other disasters, we want to be able to keep them safe. Pre-Cloud users kept copies of pictures and information on CDs or DVDs and hard drives in bank vaults or other safe storage. They also gave copies to others and sent discs or memory sticks to interested parties. When we put our data into cloud storage, though, we keep the original information at our home, and store the data in a format that can be used by others in facilities in different places in the world. Now, everyone can have access to this data, with permission, in a much easier way.

The FamilySearch Blog has an article that describe's Scott Allen's presentation at the recent 2014 BYU Family History Conference into the mysterious realms of the "Cloud" and explained what that means. Scott Allen is from the Utah Education Network and knows his subject well.

You can read the article in the FamilySearch Blog at

https://familysearch.org/blog/en/saving-family-history-securely-cloud/.

Comments by Tony Kierna

The "cloud" is everywhere around us beckoning us as Ahab beckons those from the back of the whale! Generally, all of your created data such as word documents, photos, MP3 files, music etc was created and then stored on your local computer's hard drive. If you were thinking ahead, you at least made a backup copy of those files onto an external portable hard drive. But more than likely you kept that external portable hard drive at home. So if something happened to your main computer's hard drive at least you had the ability to restore those lost files from your backup.

But you still have to think broader. Copies of your files need to exist on some device that exists outside of your home in case the worse happened. This would be a perfect opportunity to share data with your discovered cousins. Their backup data could be stored in your home. Your backup data could be stored in their home.

Now however, you have an even better option. Store your data in the "cloud" in addition to still having physical files as backups in your own house and outside of your house. From the "cloud" you will have access from anywhere in the world from which you can access the internet. This is a plus because now your research material can easily be shared with cousins anywhere via the internet and the "cloud". Previously, even with backups, you had these on physical devices that could not easily be share with cousins. The "cloud" can now let you interact with your data whether you are using an iPhone, and Android Phone, an iPad, another tablet, a

desktop or just about any portable device. You basically have universal access independent of a device type.

The author in the above referenced article states these advantages to the "cloud":

- *No cost for storage facilities*
- *Automatic backup in case of problems*
- *Retrieval from anywhere*
- *Information easily shared*

The author also notes that while the "cloud" is good there are still some disadvantages *to be aware of:*

- *Retrieval not as fast as local storage*
- *Infections with malware or viruses can occur like any download*
- *Encryption may not be done as it is transferred to the cloud (Allen said that more and more places are encrypted now so this is no longer such a problem)*
- *No control over hardware or network where your information is stored. If there is a problem with the network, information may not be able to be stored or retrieved. According to Allen, however, the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages.*

The author also notes that you can always get "free" storage in initial amounts of gigabit storage. *If your storage needs are large, you can get additional storage over and above the "free" storage" for minimal monthly charges. The author notes the following "free" storage services:*

- *Dropbox – www.dropbox.com;*
- *Google Drive http://drive.google.com;*
- *Amazon Cloud Drive www.amazon.com/clouddrive;*
- *iCloud www.icloud.com (Apple)*

If you have any connection with any of the above providers you already have some "free" "cloud" storage that you may simply not be using. If you have an iPhone, you have "cloud" storage; if you have Gmail, you can get free storage with your Google Account.

I believe that having some form of "backup" is better than none. *But with the ease now of "cloud" storage why take a chance. If you have no backup of your data, please, please, please make a backup of some kind to some location!*

Dick Eastman is a big proponent of backing up your data. He even puts out a newsletter update on the first day of each month to back up your data.

Don't become that story we have all heard about the person that lost all of their 20 years data because they did not make a copy somewhere.

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Handout #9 – "DID YOUR UNION ARMY CIVIL WAR ANCESTOR APPLY FOR A PENSION?"

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the July-September 2014, Volume 40, Number 3 issue of NGS Magazine.

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I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled "Did Your Union Army Civil War Ancestor Apply for a Pension?". The authors of the article are Marie Varrelman Melchiori, CG, CGL and Claire Prechtel-Kluskens.

Receiving pensions for military service has been a tradition that goes back to the formation of our country when those who served in the Revolutionary war often received bounty land warrants and pensions. If you are lucky to possibly have an ancestor that served in the Civil War for the Union, then you might want to become familiar with 4 main resources noted by the author that can help you uncover that fact.

There is an index of records that is most frequently referred to as the T288, the alphabetical index that is most often used by researchers. It is a National Archives Microfilm Publication *T288, General Index to Pension Files, 1861 – 1934* (544 rolls). It is commonly but inaccurately known as the Civil War Pension Index since it also includes veterans of the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection and Regular Army Service between the wars. This resource is available online at Ancestry.com and at FamilySearch.org.

The resource was originally a series of cards containing the name of the veteran, hence the alphabetical name for the resource, then in order by state from which the veteran served. Data on the cards contains aliases under which a veteran might have been known. You can also find the name of the veteran's widow and guardian of his minor children, if any. No matter how many file numbers are listed on the card, there is only one file per veteran.

A veteran can have two or more index cards, but there is still only one pension file. There could be a card for the original application. There could be a card for the widow of the veteran when she filed for his pension.

Expect to see cryptic acronyms on these cards. Here are some of the acronyms and their meanings:

- SO – Survivor's Original – used when veteran first applied

- SC – Survivor's Certificate – used when veteran pension was approved

- WO – Widow's Original – used when widow first applied

- WC – Widow's Certificate – used when widow pension approved

- Other Dependents – if there were claims made on behalf of minor children, or
dependent mothers, fathers or sisters.

- Gdn – if a child was assigned a guardian and the who the guardian was

- C or XC – if the veteran or widow lived into the 1920s the file was given a new number and the pension became age-related rather than disability based

Another resource to use to track down a possible Civil War Pension record is the T289, the organization index. The second most commonly used index is the National Archives Microfilm Publication *T289, Organization Index to Pension Files of Veterans Who Served Between 1861 and 1900* (765 rolls). The title is also somewhat inaccurate because it includes veterans who served as late as World War I. T289 is available online at Fold3.com with images of the index cards and on FamilySearch.org without images of the cards.

T289 is arranged by branch of service, then by regiment, company and finally in alphabetical order by name of the veteran. There are similarities and differences between T288 mentioned earlier and T289. T289 does not include Navy veterans, the names of the widow or guardian of minor children, or the state from which the application was filed.

Why use T289? Perhaps your ancestor was not found in T288 because his name might have been spelled differently in that resource. Also, T288 might contain an erroneous pension file number or one that is too difficult to read. You have an alternative resource to make a discovery. Also, if you are researching a known military unit of an ancestor, this might be the resource to consider. Also rolls 627 to 765 of T289 contain Spanish-American veterans, including Philippine Insurrection veterans, some World War I veterans, Indian Scouts, Philippine Scouts, hospital corps, quartermaster corps, medical departments and other units.

A third Civil War Pension resource to consider using is referred to as A1158, a numerical index. It is National Archives Microfilm Publication *A1158, Numerical Index to Pensions, 1860-1934* (359 rolls). It provides a way to connect to a veteran when you know the pension file number. It is available online at Fold3.com.

It is arranged numerically from number 1 to 1,737,997. Most cards identify up to 4 veterans who are connected to that number. The lowest numbered cards can connect you with up to 34 veterans. This index can be useful if a published source connects a person with a common name to a pension file number without any military unit or other helpful identifying information.

The fourth Civil War Pension resource to consider is the M1785, remarried widows' index. It is National Archives Microfilm Publication *M1785, Index to Pension Application Files of Remarried Widows Based on Service in the Civil War and Later Wars and in the Regular Army After the Civil War* (7 rolls). M1785 is available online at Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org. It is arranged alphabetically by the widow's remarried name. The index card provides her deceased former husband's name, military unit in which he served, her widow's original number, date of her application and any remarks.

This index can be helpful if a widow was known to have a previous spouse who was a veteran but the name is unknown. The index does not include all remarried widows unless they provided information making the change known.

Now you have checked the index and found an ancestor. To get a copy of the pension file you can:

- You can view the file online if it is one of the WC files that have been digitized and uploaded at Fold3.com.

- You can travel to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. to examine and copy the file if it has not been digitized. You can hire a professional to make a copy of the information from the National Archives.

- You can have the National Archives make a copy by making a request of them through the Order Online system at https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline by mailing a completed NATF Form 85 to them. The form can be downloaded at http://www.archives.gov/forms/pdf/natf-85.pdf . The cost of a full Civil War pension Application file is $80 for the first 100 pages and $.70 for each additional page. For a Pension Documents Packet (a small portion of the file) the cost is $30.

It is nice to know that if you have a problem finding an ancestor that might have been a Civil War veteran who had a pension in the T288 series, you now have 3 other resources to consider to use to make that discovery. Better yet, sometimes it is beneficial to check for your Civil War ancestor in all of the resources rather than just the first if you find him because you could discover so much more and possibly uncovers errors in one source but find corrections in the other sources.

I would definitely consider reading this article in full if you have a Civil War veteran in your ancestral trail. Perhaps you may not have even started to pursue obtaining pension information for that veteran. This article will really help you in those efforts.

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Handout #10 – "BLACK SHEEP ANCESTORS AND THEIR RECORDS"

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the July-September 2014, Volume 40, Number 3 issue of <u>NGS Magazine</u>.

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I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled "Black Sheep Ancestors and Their Records". The author of the article is C. Ann Staley, CG, CGL.

For most of us we might make the occasional discovery of a "Black Sheep" ancestor just through the normal course of our research. Some of us may be embarrassed with such discoveries. Some of us may actually embrace the discovery of such information. Many of us may not have yet even researched a "black sheep" ancestor because we are only at the family history story stage. Perhaps an aunt or uncle or grandparent may have let out the story of an ancestor from generations before that might not have been the most perfect of ancestors. We all have these ancestors in our family lines. Those are just the facts of doing good research. These discoveries will be made.

Sometimes we have to consider using resources that can support the discovery of a "black sheep" ancestor. You probably won't find these in census records or vital records. The author notes the resources to consider focusing on because they are the records where "black sheep" information can be found in abundance. The author suggests the following resources to consider:

- Court Records – what better place to look for criminal records, divorce records and the like than within this category of record.

- Coroner's Records – perhaps an ancestor met an unfortunate end of life. Maybe there was a murder. Maybe there was a serious accident. Maybe an ancestor was just discovered deceased without anyone knowing what happened. All of these conditions warrants the involvement of the local county coroner or often known as the medical examiner. Their job is to determine all of the information that can be gathered when their ism an untimely or unexpected death. Autopsy reports, testimonies and the findings of the coroner's jury can provide incredible amounts of detailed information on an ancestor.

- Military Records – perhaps an ancestor was in the military. You might discover muster rolls that note he is absent without being authorized to do so. Perhaps he became a prisoner of war. Perhaps he was wounded. Perhaps killed in action. Perhaps an ancestor was court-martialed for dereliction of duty. Military records can be a treasure trove of heroic information as well as not so heroic information that can paint a "black sheep" quality on an ancestor.

- Convicts – preceding and during our American Revolution, England sent more than 52,000 convicts to America. England also sent more than 65,000 convicts to Australia between 1783 and 1868. Those

actions created records for you to consider as a source.

- Prison Records – consider local jail records from towns, cities and counties in addition to prison records themselves. Federal prison information could be found at the prison itself or from even the National Archives.

- Wild West and Notorious Characters – many famous gangsters have web sites devoted to them and have had books written about them. Don't just think of characters that were violent. Expand your view to include anti-war individuals and civil rights individuals.

- Newspapers – probably the best source for stories of events in which our "black sheep" ancestors were mentioned. With so much of older newspapers being digitized, your search may be one of the easiest to discover a "black sheep" ancestor. Plus newspapers of years ago wrote lengthy coverage of murders, accidents when "political correctness" was not prevalent as it is today. Stories do not just have to be about murders and court proceedings. Simple robberies identifying the culprits might contain the name of an ancestor. Maybe teen pranks that got out of hand might mention an ancestor. What better place to find a picture or an artist's rendering of an ancestor.

Chances are you will make these "black sheep" discoveries whether you are looking for them or not. Just normal research, either in the form of documents or in the form of family stories may make your "black sheep" visible. But if you really want to increase your chances of such discovery, tap in to the above kind of records to see what you can find. It may not be for the faint of heart, but it is simply going to be the facts of your research.

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9/30/2014