



SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY
 130 South Roselle Road ■ Schaumburg, IL 60193 ■ (847) 985-4000



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 February 2015 --- No. 233



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PLEASE NOTE

The statements in this newsletter cited as quotes from other newsletters, quarterlies, etc., are quotations and not necessarily fact. I try not to reproduce statements that have been denied as being true and also those statements that are "old news" and have been quoted over a few years.

I would like to remind you that a few extra "paper" copies of all newsletters are filed at the "Ask Us" Desk on the 2nd floor along with the "handouts" summary sheet. Please remember that you can take any of the extra paper copies in the folder. The Newsletter as well as all "handout" summaries for a particular program will be contained in a folder specifically for that program date e.g. Newsletter as well as "handout" summary for program on 1/12/10 are contained in a separate folder. Each program date will have its own folder. If you do not find a copy in the manila "extra" folder, you will have to copy from the permanent file binder. If the staff has trouble finding the folders, please let me know.

More importantly, electronic PDF copies of the Newsletter and the "handouts" summary for our monthly program can be obtained electronically as PDF files from our Library's Genealogy Blog called "Tony's Genealogy Blog at the Schaumburg Township District Library". This is a WordPress blog that you can reach directly at:

<http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Look on the right side of the blog for links within the "Newsletter" category and the "Program Handouts" category. You can read the material online, download as a PDF file to your computer or print it from the blog.

If anyone needs to contact me via e-mail, you may reach me at the Schaumburg Township District Library at:

akierna@stdl.org

Or if you need to reach me the old fashioned way by phone, please contact me through the **Schaumburg Township District Library at 847-923-3390. I now can also be reached by direct FAX at the Schaumburg Township District Library. The FAX number in Reference is 847-923-3335.**

I am at the library each Monday, Tuesday (except on program dates) and Wednesday morning from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Reference Office should you need to meet me to obtain assistance in your research plan. Please let me know in advance if you plan on dropping in on these days so we can schedule a convenient time slot within those hours.

Tony Kierna - Genealogy Coordinator/Schaumburg Township District Library

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MARCH 10, 2015 GENEALOGY PROGRAM TOPIC

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, March 10, 2015.

We will have another "break-out" session for our gathering on March 10, 2015. Our previous attempts proved to be quite a good success. I would like us to build on those successes and afford those participants the opportunity to meet with those again or sample other groups.

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

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

I want to reconvene the following groups:

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

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

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

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

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

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

I look forward to our next "break-out" session on March 10, 2015.

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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WELCOME TO ALL NEWCOMERS

Glad you could join us as you embark on a rather adventurous journey into the unknown and far-reaching past! Please see me so I can get to know you and the details of the "journey" you plan to take. Make sure you receive from me a special "newcomer" package of materials that will help you take your first big steps.

I would greatly appreciate your taking the time to fill out and return to me a simple questionnaire that I use to better understand areas of research into which you may delve as well as your having access or not to a home personal computer.

Please feel free to become acquainted with the Genealogy Collection at Schaumburg Township District Library. Our book material is generally located in the 929.1XXXX to 929.3XXXX sections of both the Circulating Collection as well as the Reference Collection. The library also has a Video, Audio and Microform Collection of Genealogy material located in the AV-Department. The materials in AV are also identified in the same Dewey number range as the printed material. These are two great browsing areas for you to review introductory material.

For book material I would like to recommend as a starter a book titled Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide to Genealogy by Emily Anne Croom (929.1 CRO). A companion book that would follow Unpuzzling Your Past is The Genealogist's Companion & Sourcebook also by Emily Anne Croom (929.1 CRO). These two books present a good place to begin familiarizing yourself with the field of Genealogy. Feel free to check these out.

If you have access to the Internet, you may want to check out a Getting Started web page that appears at the National Genealogical Society web site. The address is:

http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/getting_started

Our participants are a great group of friendly people who are willing to help each other in their quest to discover their ancestors. Don't be shy to mingle!! You may be sitting next to a long, lost relative!?

Welcome to the group!

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WHO WE ARE AND WHERE WE ARE LOOKING - FOLLOW-UP

Here is an update on our participant information that I am tracking. My database to date includes information on 192 participants that have returned a filled-out questionnaire to me. I have received updates from many of you since our last meeting. You truly are a very sharing group in your willingness to share your personal information with others attending our genealogy program concerning your research efforts.

From the filled-out questionnaires that have been returned to me, the numbers show that they are searching for a total of 1,494 surnames among all of the individuals.

Remember, that I will bring to the program a current group report that I would appreciate you reviewing and marking any additions, deletions or changes for your particular information that you would like me to make onto the report itself. I will leave one updated report by the genealogical material by the "Ask Us" Desk on the 2nd floor for you to reference in-between meetings. I will make additions/deletions to the participants that will be reflected in the listing of participants contained in the red binder that will be on the shelves at the combined Information/Magazine desk.

If you are in the library and need to review please ask someone at the "Ask Us" Desk on the 2nd floor for the material. Also check for this binder at my desk in the Reference Office if you do not find it at the "Ask Us" Desk.

Any feedback from you is welcome concerning the report and the material included in it. I do occasionally make typos or I possibly misread what you provided.

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SHORT TAKES / POTPOURRI

The following articles are from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter December 30, 2014, January 2, 2015, January 4, 2015, January 11, 2015, January 11, 2015, January 19, 2015 and are copyright 2014/2015 by Richard W. Eastman. They are re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

DNA Genealogy Companies Help Adoptees Find Their Roots (December 30, 2014)

[Dick Eastman](#) · [December 30, 2014](#) · [DNA](#) · [3 Comments](#)

The Washington Times has published an interesting story about adoptees using DNA technology to find birth parents. Quoting from the article by Cheryl Wetzstein:

Today, hundreds, if not thousands, of adoptees have used DNA genealogy companies like Family Tree DNA, 23andMe and Ancestry.com to jump over bureaucratic barriers and find members of their genetic families.

"People sometimes say we can't do it unless there's close DNA matches, but that's not true — we can do it with distant ones too," said CeCe Moore, a professional genetic genealogist who has appeared on "Finding Your Roots" with Henry L. Gates Jr. on PBS.

Even "foundlings" can find their birth relatives, Ms. Moore said.

DNA testing is the only way to find family heritage for these people since "opening records can't help when there are no records," said Ms. Moore, who has helped find birth families for a woman who was abandoned as a baby behind a grocery store, another person who was left on church steps and a third who was left at a baby-sitter's house.

You can read the full article and watch videos at <http://goo.gl/fYFrVI>.

If You Americanize Your Name, You'll Make More Money (January 2, 2015)

[Dick Eastman](#) · [January 2, 2015](#) · [Current Affairs](#) · [7 Comments](#)

Immigrants who Americanized their names earned 10 percent more — irrespective of occupation — than immigrants who kept their original, ethnically marked names, according to a study by the Institute for the Study of Labor.

Costanza Biacaschi, Corrado Giulietti, and Zahra Siddique used data from the first half of the Twentieth Century to determine that male immigrants who changed their first name to one of the three most popular American names — William, John, and Charles — earned 10 percent more than their peers no matter what their occupation was.

You can read more in an article by Scott Kaufman in the RawStory web site at: <http://goo.gl/9kdACX>.

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness is Back Online (January 4, 2015)

[Dick Eastman](#) · [January 4, 2015](#) · [Online Sites](#) · [13 Comments](#)



Great news! **Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness** appears to be back online.

The original Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK) website was created by Bridgett and Doc Schneider. More than 4,000 volunteers in every U.S. state and many international locations used the site to help other genealogists. The volunteers agreed to do at least one free genealogy research task per month in their local area as an Act of Kindness. The RAOGK volunteers agreed not to charge for their research time; however, researchers were required to reimburse the volunteer for expenses incurred in fulfilling the research request (e.g., copies, printing fees, postage, film or video tape, parking fees, gasoline, etc.).

The original Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK) website was in operation for more than a decade, benefitting thousands of genealogists. In mid-October,

2011, Bridgett Schneider sent an email message to all registered users stating that major problems had developed with the site's hard drive plus the overall health of the administrator was not favorable. The site went offline.

Sadly, Bridgett Schneider passed away Nov. 12, 2011. The site never came back online, until now.

The <http://www.raogk.org> web site now states, "RAOGK is a global volunteer organization. At one time we had over 4000 volunteers in every U.S. state and many international locations, and helped thousands of researchers. We are trying to rebuild the RAOGK site. It will take a little more time to get it back to its former glory. Our volunteers take time to do everything from looking up courthouse records to taking pictures of tombstones. All they ask in return is reimbursement for their expenses (never their time) and a thank you."

It's great to see <http://raogk.org> back online. I strongly urge all genealogists to check it out and also to volunteer your efforts to help others. In the long term, you will benefit also.

My thanks to newsletter reader Russell Houlton for telling me of RAOGK's return.

How To Preserve Old Photos Without Losing Your Mind (January 11, 2015)

[Dick Eastman](#) · [January 11, 2015](#) · [Photography](#) · [7 Comments](#)



Chris Cummins is a professional photographer who writes a personal blog about photo preservation and a number of other topics as well. He recently published *How To Preserve Old Photos Without Losing Your Mind* that focuses on simplifying the overwhelming process of turning old family photos into an organized, safe and searchable digital archive with tips for how to preserve the film and paper originals.

The article covers a lot of topics, including:

- The Biggest Enemy of Preserving Photos: Procrastination
- Set a Very Reachable Goal
- Identify which photographs are most important to you and your family
- The Four Question Test for Photo Preservation
- Time To Digitize Those Old Pictures
- Warning: Be Careful Placing Too Much Faith In Technology
- How To Create Digital Copies Of Your Family Photos

- Your Scanning Options
- Flatbed Scanners
- Smartphones
- Hiring Someone Else To Scan Your Family Photos
- What Software Should You Use?
- Where To Store Your Digital Copies
- Cloud Storage Services: A Comparison
- Use Metadata: Don't Make A Digital Mess Of Your Real World Photo Mess
- Preserve Old Photos: How to Keep The Originals Safe
- Often The Actual Prints Themselves Are A Thing Of Beauty Too And Are Worth Preserving
- So How Do We Keep The Original Prints And Negatives Safe?
- The Storage Environment: Keep It Cool, Keep It Dry
- Good Storage Enclosures:
- Proper Handling: Make It Easy
- What To Store The Prints and Negatives In?

You can read *How To Preserve Old Photos Without Losing Your Mind* at

<http://www.glowimagery.com/how-to-preserve-old-photos/>

20 Do's and Don'ts of DNA (January 11, 2015)

[Dick Eastman](#) · [January 11, 2015](#) · [DNA](#) · [5 Comments](#)

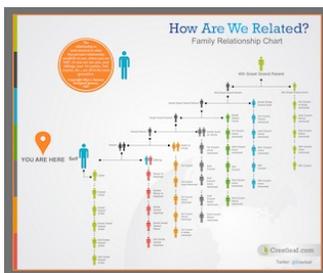
Melvin J. Collier has published an article in his Roots Revealed genealogy blog that I would suggest should be required reading for all genealogists interested in DNA. For instance, Rule #1 says, "Please do not take any DNA test without first trying to put together your family tree. DNA test-takers need to have started working on their family tree or pedigree chart before jumping to DNA. DNA alone will not magically generate your family tree for you."

You can read that and 19 more rules at:

<http://rootsrevealed.blogspot.com/2015/01/20-dos-and-donts-of-dna.html>

A New Family Relationship Chart and Infographic (January 19, 2015)

[Dick Eastman](#) · [January 19, 2015](#) · [Genealogy Basics](#) · [No Comments](#)



Crestleaf has created a family relationship chart to explain how you're related to other people and start asking yourself questions, including:

- How exactly am I related to Uncle Bob, who I only see once a year?
- There are a bunch of kids running around these days – how do they fit into the family tree?
- How in the world do I fit into all of this?
- Boy, these people are weird. Am I completely sure I'm related to them?

I have seen many other relationship charts before but must say this is one of the easier ones to read and understand. Take a look at <http://crestleaf.com/blog/relative-family-relationship-chart/>. (Once you arrive on the site, double-click on the image to view a larger version.)



LOCAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS/PROGRAMS

Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society (formerly called Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists)

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society (New Name) will take place on Saturday morning, March 7, 2015. The program for the morning is titled **"Irish Emigrants to North America: Before, During and After the Famine"**. The speaker for the morning will be **Paul Milner**.

Learn about the routes taken and the reasons for the emigration from Ireland to the U.S. and Canada before, during and after the famine. Learn how this mass movement of people can affect your research, plus what tools and records are available to trace your Irish ancestor.

Paul Milner a native of northern England is a professional genealogist and international lecturer. He is the author of Discover English Parish Records (UnlockThePast, 2014), Genealogy at a Glance: England Research (Genealogical Publishing Co, 2011), plus co-author with Linda Jonas of A Genealogists Guide to Discovering Your English Ancestors: How to find and record your unique heritage (Betterway Books, 2000), and A Genealogists Guide to Discovering Your Scottish Ancestors: How to find and record your unique heritage (Betterway Books, 2002). Paul has specialized in British Isles genealogical research for over 30 years. He was raised in England and settled in the United States in 1975. He has been designing workshops and lecturing to a wide variety of audiences for over 35 years. He holds an advanced degree in Theology and is particularly knowledgeable about the church and its role in record keeping. As a genealogist he speaks on a variety of topics relating to research in the British Isles, migration to North America and research methodology. Paul is currently the book review editor for the FGS FORUM and the BIGWILL newsletter. He is the past-president of the British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois (BIGWILL), and a past board member of the Association to Professional Genealogists, the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Genealogical Speakers Guild. Paul focusses on British Isles resources and methodology on his blog at www.milnergenealogy.com

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:

<http://www.nwsgenealogy.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.

DuPage County Genealogical Society

Please note that meetings that will take place for the society will occur between September 2014 through May 2015. The September 2014 program will occur at the DuPage County Historical Museum located at 102 E. Wesley Street in Wheaton, IL. The October 2014 through May 2015 programs are once again taking place at the Wheaton Public Library in the Lower Level. The address of the library is 225 N. Cross St. in Wheaton, IL. Please note the new times for refreshments and the program. Refreshments are offered at 6:30 PM. The meeting will start at 7 PM and last till no longer than 8:30 PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, February 18, 2015. The program scheduled for that evening is **"Holy Cow! Where Are My Chicago Catholics Now?"**. The speaker for the program will be **Teresa Steinkamp-McMillin, CG**.

The first Chicago Catholic church opened in 1833 and by 1900 there were about 140 Catholic churches in the city. Finding your Catholic ancestor's church records (baptism, confirmation, marriage and funeral) can be a daunting task without a few key pieces of information. This lecture will explain how to find the data necessary to tap into these valuable resources. Once potential churches are identified, the process of finding the records for that church and timeframe will be explained.

You may visit the society's web page at:

www.dcg.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/>

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### *Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois (CAGGNI)*

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, February 21, 2015 at the Schaumburg Township District Library, 130 S. Roselle Road, Schaumburg, IL starting at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"The Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives: What Is In It? Everything!"**. The speaker will be **George Findlen**.

The holdings of interest to genealogists in the Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives (two repositories in one building), and the services they provide to make your contact with them a pleasant one will be presented. The two repositories, together, hold one of the five largest genealogy collections in the U.S. George demonstrates how to locate family histories, compiled genealogies, newspapers, pre-1907 Wisconsin vital records, civil war records, and more through the on-line digital catalogs for the library, the archives, and digital records made available at the Wisconsin History web site. The talk concludes with a description of the microfilm equipment visitors can use, and other services provided by the Library and Archives to support users both on-site and from afar.

This program is a "preparation" program to especially help those that will be taking the CAGGNI "road trip" to the Wisconsin Historical Society Library the group will have from April 23, 2015 to April 25, 2015.

George Findlen is a retired academic administrator and faculty member. His genealogical articles have appeared in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* and journals in New England, Louisiana, New Brunswick, and Quebec.

Don't miss this informative session.

You may visit the organization web page at:

[www.CAGGNI.org](http://www.CAGGNI.org)

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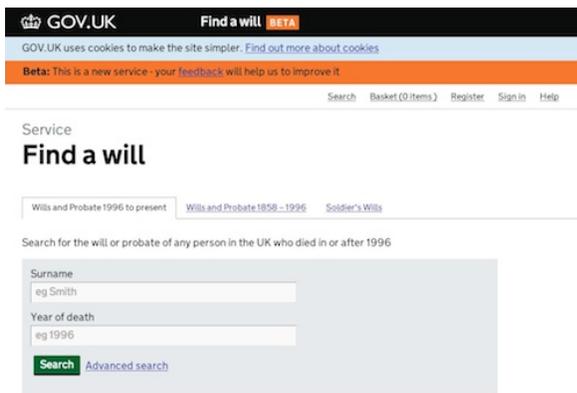
## INTERNET INFORMATION

*The following articles are from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter December 27, 2014, and January 16, 2015 and are copyright by Richard W. Eastman 2014/2015. They are re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>*

### **Millions of Wills from England and Wales Available Online (December 27, 2014)**

[Dick Eastman](#) · [December 27, 2014](#) · [Online Sites](#) · [5 Comments](#)

*This is a follow-up article to one written by Jan Meisels Allen and published in this newsletter last month at: <http://goo.gl/mrtVLI>.*



The wills of more than 41 million people, some dating back 156 years, are now available online for the first time in a huge online archive. The new database allows the public to search a government archive of 41 million wills dating back to 1858. The search is free, but payment of a £10 fee is required to download and view the complete details. A name and year of death is required to find wills, which should be ready for download within 10 days of order. Previously, copies of many such documents could only be accessed by a face-to-face request.

**NOTE:** The database contains wills only from England and Wales. Different procedures apply in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Information about Scottish wills may be found at <http://www.nas.gov.uk/guides/wills.asp> while information about wills in Northern

Ireland may be found at

[http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search\\_the\\_archives/will\\_calendars/about\\_wills.htm](http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/will_calendars/about_wills.htm).

The wills, covering England and Wales and owned by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS), were painstakingly scanned in by hand. The work was performed by Iron Mountain, a specialist records management company.

To access the wills:

1. Log on to <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills> and create an account.
2. Choose the section you wish to search – Wills and Probate 1996 to present; Wills and Probate 1858 to 1996; or Soldiers' Wills.
3. There are two search fields – the surname of the deceased and year of death. Both must be filled in. With the exception of the 1858 to 1996 section, you can also carry out an advanced search, which requires more information.
4. In the 1996 to present section, a list of results will appear, giving the names, date of probate, probate number, date of death and registry of each person with that name. For instance, for a person called Stanley Wood who died in 2005, there are 12 results. To order a document, click "Add to basket."
5. Under the 1858 to 1996 section, a page from the probate calendar for that year is returned in search results, providing summaries of names, birthplace and other details. These must be typed into an online ordering form on the right of the screen.
6. Click on "Proceed to checkout" to pay. Some documents take up to ten days to be sent as electronic copies. The files can be accessed for 31 days.

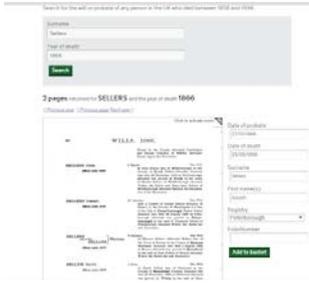
The wills now available include those of:

Winston Churchill, who left a fortune worth £304,004 – or more than £5.3 million in today's money.

Alan Turing, the cryptologist who cracked the Enigma code to help bring the war to a close, committed suicide by cyanide poisoning in 1954. The brilliant mathematician left a short will with instructions to share his possessions between his colleagues and his mother.

Winnie the Pooh creator AA Milne, who gave shares of his future royalties and copyright to the Garrick Club, his favorite club, and Westminster School when he died in 1956.

The editor of this newsletter found wills for her great-great grandfather Sellers and his grandfather, even though she did not have their death dates. She simply began searching with the surname and earliest possible death year. Some years showed two or three pages of listed search results, but persistence paid off.



In many cases the displayed information is enough to verify the person's identity. For example, the man's past residence, residence at death, occupation, and spouse's name sufficed to confirm that this is definitely the right person.



The site accepts payment by either Visa or MasterCard as well as by JCB or Maestro card. The payment confirmation screen informs you that, when the purchased wills are available for download, a message will be sent to the email address you provided when you registered.

**HistoryLines Announces Beta Site (January 16, 2015)**

[Dick Eastman](#) · [January 16, 2015](#) · [Online Sites](#) · [8 Comments](#)

I have not yet used this new service but the press release sounds interesting:

Site provides instant biographies and personal timelines for ancestors, saving genealogists time.



Oswego, IL – January 15, 2015

HistoryLines, a new website for genealogists and family historians, has announced the release of its beta site at <https://historylines.com>. The site allows anyone to understand

the story of their forebears by discovering the historical events and environment that surrounded their ancestors. Users see their relatives in historical context with a personalized timeline, and read a detailed biography based on when and where the ancestor lived in history.

“There are a couple of aspects of family history research that are really problematic for genealogists,” says Jeff Haddon, HistoryLines co-founder. “First, genealogists want to know more about their ancestors than names and dates. They’re anxious for a glimpse into their ancestors’ daily lives to really understand what it was like to live in their time. But the research required to get to that level of detail can be extremely time consuming. And even if they successfully gather the data, they still have to compile it into a life sketch or biography. Multiply that effort by hundreds of ancestors in the typical family tree and you have a real time problem on your hands. There are not enough hours in a lifetime to research and write all those biographies!”

In the past, genealogists have relied on personal details discovered in artifacts like journals, census records and war records. While those types of sources are available for some ancestors, they are hard to come by for many others. Experienced genealogists often resort to historical research to fill in the gaps, but that research consumes valuable time that could be utilized elsewhere. According to Haddon, HistoryLines hopes to dramatically simplify that process for genealogists.

Additional features of the HistoryLines site include the ability to edit the existing story, or even to add personal events to the timeline and story. Users are able to build a family tree on the site, or to pull in their family tree from FamilySearch.org, thanks to the FamilySearch partner certification received by HistoryLines.com in December 2014. In the future, users will also be able to upload a GEDCOM file containing their family tree, further simplifying the process.

Currently, the HistoryLines site offers historical data for the British Isles, Ireland, and the United States from 1600 to present. Haddon confirms that data for additional countries and centuries will continuously be added until all locations and all centuries are represented. “As useful as the product is now, it’s only the beginning. We have a rich roadmap of exciting features and capabilities ahead of us that will continue to add value long into the future. Our mission is to make genealogists’ lives easier,” says Haddon. Much of the technology and processes behind the HistoryLines site functionality is covered by a pending U.S. patent application.

HistoryLines will be present at the upcoming RootsTech-FGS conference in Salt Lake City on February 12-14, 2015, and will be exhibiting at booth #1235.

Genealogists who would like to try out the beta site can sign up for access at [historylines.com](http://historylines.com).

### **About HistoryLines**

Formed in 2014, HistoryLines is an entrepreneurial venture dedicated to solving persistent obstacles to genealogical research and ancestral understanding. It’s initial product offering, <https://historylines.com> is currently in closed beta, and is accepting beta tester signups on its homepage.

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## **PERIODICAL NEWS**

### **NGS Magazine**

We have received the October-December 2014, Volume 40, Number 4 issue of NGS Magazine.

Key articles in this issue are:

**"Research Roads Leading to St. Charles, Missouri"**

By Janet Powell

**"The Sociology of Cemeteries"**

By Helen A. Shaw, CG

**"Inside Emigrant Guides"**

By Julie Miller, CG

**"Educational Opportunities in Genealogy"**

By Julie Cahill Tarr

**"Seventeenth-Century Virginia Ancestors"**

By Donald W. Moore

**"Compiled Military Service Records Part IV: Carded Medical Records"**

By Claire Prechtel-Kluszens

**"Finding Unexpected Genealogy Gems"**

By Kathy Petlewski, MSLS

**"Immigration Cards and Informants: Verifying the Mother of Yoshito Tanaka"**

By Amil Mulligan and Darcie Hind Posz, CG

**"Family History Writing Made Easier"**

By Lisa A. Alzo

**"Social Media Tips from the Nancy Drew Mystery Stories"**

By Fran Jensen

**"First Look at Shared Genealogy of DNA Matches"**

By Debbie Parker Wayne, CG, CGL

**"Be Less Sedentary"**

By Jordan Jones

I thought that a very interesting article in this issue is one titled "The Sociology of Cemeteries". The author is Helen A. Shaw, CG.

Sometimes in our genealogical research it may be very easy to discover where an ancestor is buried. We have a death certificate that may clearly state the location of burial. Or maybe we do not have a death certificate for a particular ancestor but we know from family stories that many of our ancestors may be buried in a cemetery that is quite well known and accessible. Furthermore, an ancestor may have been connected with certain organizations in their life that may have also contributed to a unique burial or headstone.

The author also puts together a nice list of items that we should consider that can help us determine the location of where an ancestor may have been buried when we have not been able to discover that fact in the usual manner. She also describes other items to consider if we might know where an ancestor is buried but had ties to other organizations during their lifetime. She calls this her "sociology of cemeteries". Here are the 10 items we should consider that can affect the choice family members have for selecting a cemetery to bury a family member:

- Location
- Time Frame
- Ability to Move a Body
- Finances
- Family Ties
- Religion
- Ethnicity
- Military Service
- Occupation
- Fraternal Affiliations

All of the above can help you develop an analysis of a particular ancestor for whom you may be trying to determine a burial location. As you can see it is helpful to know something about the personal life of that individual that you can bring to bear when doing your analysis of determining a burial location when it is unknown.

Generally people are buried near the place of their death and in a nearby cemetery so determining where an individual died is important. It is also important to then know historically what cemeteries were accepting burials at the time of the ancestral death.

Embalming a body is a way to delay the onset of decomposition. This is important to know because of the ability to move a body for burial with or without embalming. To transport a body easily an existing infrastructure of roads, rivers, canals etc. are important to identify in the historical period of the time. Better means of transportation could mean a body could be buried further from the location of death when combined with embalming. It can be an interesting research effort when an ancestor may have died far from home. What did the family do? Did they bury the individual near the death location or transport the body back home for burial?

Family ties may make it easier to uncover a burial location. If family ties were strong it is possible that the cemetery of earlier family burials may be a good location to investigate. Even as marriages occurred between different family groups, these groups could still be found together even over migrations to other parts of the country and together in the cemeteries throughout the country.

Religion can play a strong tie to determine burial location. Cemeteries were often created to serve the needs for burials based on religion. There are Catholic cemeteries, Jewish cemeteries. Even where public cemeteries exist, there may be sections within the cemeteries that have become noted for certain religious sects being laid to rest in those sections. Early on the churches may have had their own cemeteries right near the church of worship. Again, knowing your ancestor can give you the clues you need to historically research a place of burial.

As to ethnicity the author suggests we should think in terms of the language spoken by the group and not think of the country. My own ancestors were Polish and spoke Polish. The time of their lives in Poland had them connected to Germany because Germany was the controlling country of what was Poland then. They might have been identified as German nationals but in fact they were still Polish in their hearts and in their language. Ethnicity can also weaken over many generations as when my ancestors came to Chicago. They became more Americanized and many generations later their children may not have the same connection to their Polish heritage and consequently may not be buried in what were traditional Polish cemeteries.

If an ancestor were in the military, that would allow them to be buried in a national or state military cemetery. So knowing if an ancestor were in the military might present you with a clue for you to check into when trying to discover a burial location. Even if not buried in a national or state military cemetery, a veteran is entitled to have their service noted by government supplied headstones that include unique military service descriptions on the headstone. Also consider whether an ancestral veteran was a Prisoner of War. These prisoner locations also have cemeteries for prisoners that may have died in captivity.

Many individuals had close ties to occupational or fraternal organizations throughout their lives. Perhaps an ancestor was a seaman or a sailor. Perhaps an ancestor was involved in the circus. Perhaps an ancestor was a mason for which his gravestone is magnificently carved by his fellow workers. Maybe an ancestor was in the Knights of Columbus. Or an ancestor may have been in the Elks. If this is the case they might have made special preparations to note that information via a gravestone. There may have been a more elaborate gravestone with much more detailed information about the ancestor contained on the gravestone.

Deaths on migration trails may be difficult to discover. Family cemeteries may have been lost over time in family history stories as families moved away from these local homesteads. Cemetery names may have changed over time. You have to associate a cemetery name to the time of an ancestral death. This could lead you to historical plat maps where names of cemeteries and locations of the cemeteries are identified.

Use the author identified "sociology of cemeteries" items to determine locations of ancestral cemeteries. Use the items to investigate further to see if ancestors were duly noted on gravestones as veterans, or having unique occupations or fraternal ties. Discover their religious connections and other clues may rise to the surface for you to research further. Understand the existing transportation systems at the time and this will lead you to cemetery locations of your ancestors.

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled "Family History Writing Made Easier". The author of the article is Lisa A. Alzo.

The author notes that being able to tell your family history story is so much easier today because of the multitude and variety of the electronic apps and tools that can help us put words and thoughts to paper.

The author notes the following guides she uses to select the best app/tool available for her use:

- It must perform a variety of tasks.
- It must offer flexibility such as being able to be used across multiple platforms like Windows and Mac OS.
- Should have a cloud-based functionality allowing for access from anywhere.
- Should provide the ability to make multiple backups and sync between computers, tablets and smartphones.
- Is it easy to install and register?
- What is the learning curve?
- Is there a "free" version (but consider paying for a premium if it is worth it.)

The author then identifies a variety of these tools she has tried and that are her favorites:

#### Note Taking and Research

- Evernote @ [www.evernote.com](http://www.evernote.com). There are tips for the Evernote product you can find at the Evernote blog at <http://blog.evernote.com/blog/2012/11/19/how-to-use-evernote-for-genealogical-research>. You can also find some tips/insights about the product at Tonia's Roots Blog at [www.toniasroots.net/2010/06/24/using-evernote-for-genealogy](http://www.toniasroots.net/2010/06/24/using-evernote-for-genealogy).
- OneNote by Microsoft @ [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)  
For some other insights into using OneNote by Microsoft check out an online link from the Paperless Genealogist @ <http://paperlessgenealogy.blogspot.com/2011/11/well-ive-started-using-microsofts.html>. YourFamilyStory has a link with some info on OneNote @ [www.4yourfamilystory.com/how-do-i-use-microsoft-onenote-to-make-a-research-plan.html](http://www.4yourfamilystory.com/how-do-i-use-microsoft-onenote-to-make-a-research-plan.html).

#### Outlining, Ideas and Storyboarding

- Scrapple @ [www.literatureandlatte.com/scrapple.php](http://www.literatureandlatte.com/scrapple.php).
- Workflowy @ <https://workflowy.com>. A link to get some other background on Workflowy can be accessed at <http://blog.workflowy.com/2013/12/18/an-offline-desktop-app-for-workflowy>.

#### Organizational (to-do lists) and Project Planning

- Any.do @ [www.any.do](http://www.any.do).

- Trello @ <https://trello.com>

#### Writing Tools

- Scrivener @ [www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener.php](http://www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener.php). There is even a video tutorial for this product at [www.literatureandlatte.com/video.php](http://www.literatureandlatte.com/video.php).
- WriteApp @ <https://writeapp.me>.

#### Document Storage

- Box @ [www.box.com](http://www.box.com)
- CloudOn @ <http://site.cloudon.com>
- DropBox @ [www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com)
- Google Drive @ <https://drive.google.com>
- iCloud @ [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)
- One Drive @ [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)
- SugarSync @ [www.sugarsync.com](http://www.sugarsync.com)

The author even notes that less is more. Most writers are quite comfortable using a basic word processor. So utilize to the max what you are already familiar with because the end result is to get some family history writing done. You could establish a steep learning curve by just adding on app after app to your tools but at the expense of getting your writing done. So judge for yourself what works best for you.

If you tend to be on the learning side and just like to know what is all out there as a writing tool, then by all means experiment with all or any of the tools that are mentioned earlier. But remember that the tool can facilitate your writing but the words won't come from the tools without you inputting them.

The author also explained what the above mentioned apps pros and cons are. It may be worth taking a look at the full article for seeing more of the details written about each app and how the author incorporated the features of the products into her own writing.

This is another good issue of NGS Magazine. There are many good articles among a variety of genealogical topics. Look at the above Table of Contents for the various articles included to see which are of interest to you.

You can find this newly arrived journal on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of our library on the magazine shelves.

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### **Family Chronicle (name to change to Your Genealogy Today with next issue)**

We have received the January/February 2015, Volume 19, Number 3 issue of Family Chronicle. (Please note that this is the last issue of this journal under the name Family Chronicle. Future issues of the journal will appear under the new name Your Genealogy Today. So make a mental note for the change. The journal will still exist but it will be under the new name.)

Key articles in this issue are:

**"Music in the Family"**

By David A. Norris

*David A. Norris examines how you can discover the music that played a role in your ancestors' lives.*

**"Strategies for Finding African American Ancestors Pre-1866"**

By Stuart Doyle

*Stuart Doyle looks at ways to overcome the problems you may encounter when trying to locate your African American ancestors in the usual places.*

**"Historical Records Survey"**

By Carol Richey

*Carol Richey looks at the efforts of the Works Progress Administration to inventory and survey historical records and the lasting contribution made to genealogical researchers.*

**"The Hudson Fortune: Truth or Fiction?"**

By Robbie Gorr

*Robbie Gorr examines the kernels of truth in those family stories.*

**"A Primer on the Russian Language and Names"**

By Matthew Bielawa

*Matthew Bielawa offers some basics on understanding the Russian language and naming conventions.*

**"What Is a Family Heirloom, and Where Can I Get One?"**

by Bill Leslie

*Bill Leslie offers some insight into what constitutes a family "heirloom", and what to do if you don't have one.*

**"My Ancestor Was a Blacksmith"**

By Claire Gebben

*Claire Gebben relates how learning about an ancestor's profession firsthand goes a long way toward gaining an understanding of that ancestor's life so long ago.*

**"Your DNA Autobiography"**

By Colleen Fitzpatrick, Ph.D.

*Colleen Fitzpatrick, Ph.D. gives us a primer on how DNA can assist you in your genealogy research.*

**"Black Sheep, Loose Nuts, and Family Secrets"**

By Bill Leslie

*Bill Leslie offers advice on how to handle sensitive family information.*

## **“What Do Genealogical Research and Book Indexes Have in Common?”**

By Dave Obee

Also included in this issue is a section titled “Research Resources”. In this section you will find descriptions of newly available book research resources. In this issue the following new books are described:

### ***Tracing Derry-Londonderry Roots***

By Brian Mitchell

### ***Starr Roll, 1894 (Cherokee Payment Rolls)***

Transcribed by Jeff Bowen

I thought that an interesting article in this issue is one titled “Black Sheep, Loose Nuts, and Family Secrets”. The author of the article is Bill Leslie.

It is not uncommon in our family history research efforts that we make discoveries of events in the lives of our ancestors that do not portray them in a very positive manner. These are often the life events that our family members that may know of such events but simply “don’t want to talk about it”. Your research may not have yet uncovered unflattering stories yet, but if you do your research long enough they will come up on your radar screen.

And the big question then is what do you do with such information? You yourself may be personally offended to the level that you will not even include the material in your research and will not even share it with other family members or collaborators. Each researcher is different in how they may view offensive discoveries or embarrassing life moments or even criminal behavior.

If you have documented a family tree that is widespread and deep, you run the risk of offending someone down the family tree while not offending someone close by in the family tree. Yet many others in your family tree enjoy making such discoveries or hearing about them because they show the “humanness” of our ancestors in not so good a light.

Don’t be surprised if when you share such not so good information about an ancestor that you may be met with anger, tears and even denial. You may find yourself in a dilemma working with other family members on your research. Some may find the material so offensive when informed that they may basically stop doing research and even stop helping you to further more research.

You could just leave the discovered information in your documentation and not let anyone else know about until your research is inherited. You could share it with others. You could include it in a publication or book. Or, you could simply destroy it as if it were never discovered.

The author provides good examples of what some of the discoveries are you could make that does not portray an ancestor in a positive manner:

- Your great-grandfather’s second marriage was without the benefit of a divorce from his first wife.

- Your grandmother described herself as a widow, but her divorced husband lived a few blocks away.
- Great-Grandpa had a little problem with the bottle, and spent more than few nights in jail.
- Your own mother might be uncomfortable discussing that she was arrested for possession of a controlled substance in 1968.
- Your father was born apparently just four months after his parents were married.
- An ancestor served time in prison for murder.
- Your great-aunt was married seven times, acquiring significant wealth with the death of each husband.
- Your mother had an abortion.
- Your grandparents were never married.
- An ancestor belonged to a radical organization.

So what do you do with such discoveries? The author suggested the following:

- Don't speculate. There is no point in offending someone with an issue based on inaccurate or incomplete information. Be sure of your facts.
- Start out a conversation with a general question, rather than with specifics about your discoveries. "Do you know where Grandma and Grandpa were living when they were divorced?"
- Before you approach a relative with possibly sensitive information, confidentially ask another relative that you trust how they think the information will be received.
- You are not a tabloid reporter and your grandfather probably is not a Hollywood star. Your obligation to respect the living is greater than your need to share sensitive information. Some information may just reside with you until the passing of someone that would be offended. Consider preserving the information but leave it for the next generation.
- You are under no obligation to share information that will offend someone. The fact that a relative was treated for mental illness may be interesting to you, but unless they choose to share this information, you should not, at least while they are alive.
- It's not your information. It's part of history. While it may not be appropriate for you to share everything that you know, it would be wrong for you to destroy the only evidence of an important fact in someone else's life.

Obviously, there are different degrees of bad and embarrassing information that you can discover on your ancestors. You may find one cited for a misdemeanor crime just like you can find someone convicted for murder. The author provides some great guidelines noted above on how to assess the situation. People react differently to different kinds of information. For you your discovery of something that is not too good on an ancestor may not impact you at all. For someone else related to that person, the discovery of such bad information may be devastating. Be sensitive before sharing any of the information. Check with other trusted collaborators in your research to get their opinion. But in the long run, facts are facts.

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled "What Is a Family Heirloom, and Where Can I Get One?" The author of the article is Bill Leslie.

Family heirlooms are tangible objects that are linked to the lives, and memories of your family. Think of photographs, documents, quilts, musical instruments, sports equipment and the like. These objects may have been used by your great-grandparents or even more recent generations. These objects are in fact linked to your ancestors by the fact they were owned and used by them. The age of the objects is not a measure to value. The value is related to the family connection through the generations.

The author notes that some families are just blessed to have dozens and dozens of these objects while other families have basically nothing to show. The single best reason for this occurrence is that families with objects because the family chooses to remember and honor its heritage.

So what if you are on the unlucky side and feel you have no heirlooms to showcase? The author uses an example in the article about Polish ancestors that may have fled Poland just before the outbreak of World War II with nothing but the clothes on their back. Here is what is suggested for a case like this for you to create heirlooms and honor their memory:

- Purchase photographs or maps of the small towns where your ancestors lived.
- Order copies of the immigration records of your ancestors.
- Purchase a print of the family crest, or a copy of the pre-war Polish flag.
- Learn to cook dishes that were common to your grandparents in Poland, and serve them in dishes that your ancestors might have used.
- Interview your grandparents, and write up their story in their own words.
- Contact cousins, and seek out photographs of common ancestors.

I think that the author's last point above is very important. There may be many heirlooms that exist of your deeper ancestral family. With large size families in existence from days past, there were many opportunities for such heirlooms to find their way into a family member's possession. But one heirloom can only reside in one place. Now, with working with other ancestral relatives in your research you have a much better chance of realizing that heirlooms exist that were passed down. Documenting such facts and sharing that with your collaborative family researchers brings that information to the forefront. Perhaps copies of the original artifact can be made if possible for sharing among many other family researchers.

The author notes that there are three types of family heirlooms:

- Developed heirlooms – tangible items that have gained their status as family treasures over time. Think of something like grandma's gravy boat used at all family gatherings 100 years ago. Think of a chair handmade by your grandfather that was seen being put together over a long period of time observed by other family members.
- Intentional heirlooms – are created to commemorate an event, a relationship, or an entire family. Think of a family quilt created by multiple family members showing events in the history of the family over their time. The ship image that brought an original family member over, a tornado that destroyed the family farm but did not injure any family members.

- Instant heirlooms – think of a newspaper article on the front page that hailed an ancestor for being a hero, think of a picture of a military family hero being awarded a medal of honor by a prestigious general. Think of remembering special family dinnerware you remember eating from but that no longer exists. You may now choose to develop an instant heirloom with special dinnerware you choose but that will take on added value years later as you accumulate and pass that dinnerware down to future generations.

The author also notes that creating heirlooms often does not involve a great deal of expense. Here are a few keys to presenting and preserving your family's tangible heritage:

- Just look around your own possessions for what you could consider heirlooms.
- Just ask around among your relatives. Who you ask may be thrilled by your interest, and a whole new intra-family world may open up to you.
- Document your family heirloom discoveries. Today's heirloom is just another garage sale item if you don't write down the story behind the object. Take photos to accompany what you write, so that more than one family member can enjoy the object. If you discover an heirloom in another family, ask if you can make a copy of it via scanning if it is a paper document.
- Display and use the heirloom object. Show your heirloom item for other family members to see it and then even for them to ask about it to share the family story you may know. Even develop a succession plan of who will get the object after you.
- Everyday objects like a pocket knife, a bowl or serving dish, or an old pipe wrench, may not display well, but most can and should be used for their intended purpose.

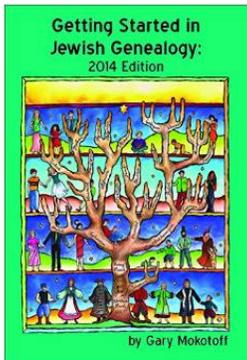
Honor your ancestors with heirlooms that were a part of their lives and memories. If you have some already, get them out into the open for other family members to see and know the story behind them. If you do not feel you have any heirlooms, start making some now that will be there for future generations.

This is another good issue of Family Chronicle. Note the article titles I identified above and see if any of them match your own research interests. Also remember that this journal is changing its name with the next issue. It will then be known as Your Genealogy Today.

You can find this recently received journal on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of our library on the magazine shelves.



## BOOKS IN PRINT



We have added a newly published genealogy book to our circulating collection. The title of the book is ***Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy: 2014 Edition***. The author of the book is Gary Mokotoff. It is currently considered a “NEW” book and resides on the New Non-Fiction shelves on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of our library in the area of the “Ask Us” Desk. It is available to check out from our library from that location or when it will permanently reside in the genealogy material at 929.2089 MOKOTOFF, G.

The book was published in 2014 and was added to our collection in December 2014. It is available to check out from our 2<sup>nd</sup> floor circulating collection. The call number of the book is 929.2089 MOKOTOFF, G. The book consists of 94 pages.

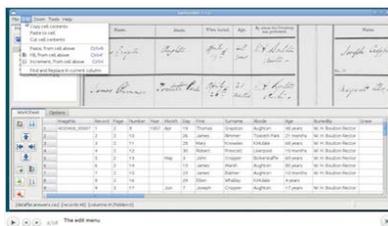


## **SOFTWARE/HARDWARE**

*The following articles are from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter December 16, 2014 and January 2, 2015 and are copyright by Richard W. Eastman 2014/2015. They are re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>*

**GenScriber – a FREE Transcription Tool for Genealogy Research (December 16, 2014)**

[Dick Eastman](#) · [December 16, 2014](#) · [Software](#) · [9 Comments](#)



One of the best tools for transcribing old handwritten documents is called **GenScriber**, a FREE program for Windows and Linux created by Les Hardy. A Macintosh version is also available although it operates as a Windows version packaged inside a wineskin wrapper. While not ideal, the “pseudo-Windows” version is still a reasonable solution for Macintosh users.

GenScriber is a transcription editor for census records, church records, birth, marriage, baptisms, burials, index records, and more. GenScriber is useful for transcribing both free-form text as well as columns of data, such as U.S. census records. It is designed to be used for easily transcribing digital images of old, handwritten documents.

GenScriber is simple to use. First, store the image of the document you wish to transcribe someplace on your hard drive or on external media, such as a flash drive or external hard drive. Launch GenScriber and point it to the folder that holds the document images you want to transcribe, click on the file and then start transcribing. GenScriber displays a "split screen" with the top half of the screen showing the image and the lower half is your worksheet for transcription. Images may be rotated, zoomed and various filters applied.

Unlike the more common method of transcribing to spreadsheets, The GenScriber worksheet is not a spreadsheet. It will not change dates or numerical input. All cell inputs are alphanumeric. No assumptions are made about the data type. Dates and values remain exactly as you entered them.

Of course, any data entry program is only as good as its ability to import from and export to other applications. GenScriber will import and export several different formats. It can import a GEDCOM file. Imported files are always converted to CSV files. Exported files may be in CSV, ODS, XML or GEDCOM formats.

GenScriber is free for non-commercial use. GenScriber may be found at

<http://genscriber.com/genapps>.

A number of videos showing how to use GenScriber may be found at

[http://genscriber.com/genapps/genscriber/help/tips\\_and\\_tutorials/200\\_videos](http://genscriber.com/genapps/genscriber/help/tips_and_tutorials/200_videos).

### **GenSoftReviews Announces its Users Choice Awards for 2014 (January 2, 2015)**

[Dick Eastman](#) · [January 2, 2015](#) · [Software](#) · [2 Comments](#)

The following announcement was written by Louis Kessler of GenSoftReviews:

January 2, 2015



The 6th annual Users Choice Awards have been announced at the [GenSoftReviews website](#).

26 programs were eligible having a minimum of 10 reviews and at least one review in 2014. Of those, 16 programs achieved a user-assigned average score of at least 4.00 out of 5, and were awarded a 2014 GenSoftReviews Top Rated Genealogy Software award.

- The Winners include:
  - 9 Windows programs: Ahnenblatt, Clooz, Family Historian, Ancestral Quest, Brother's Keeper, Family Tree Builder, Behold, RootsMagic and Genbox Family History,
  - 1 Mac program: Reunion
  - 5 Online programs: The Next Generation, Famberry, My Great Big Family, MyHeritage and Family Echo
  - 1 Handheld program: Heredis for iOS

The top program for 2014 was Ahnenblatt, a free full featured Windows program by Dirk Böttcher. Ahnenblatt ended the year with a user rating of 4.90 out of 5 based on 152 reviews. Ancestral Quest dropped from first in 2013 to seventh in 2014 but still retained an excellent score of 4.54 out of 5. The Next Generation, a program that manages and displays your family tree on your website, moved up from fourth in 2013 to second in 2014 with a score of 4.78 out of 5.

New to the list of winners for 2014 were My Heritage for their online Family Tree system, and Behold, a genealogy data viewer.

Programs that dropped off the list from 2013 include iFamily for Leopard and Heredis for Mac, both of which did not receive at least one rating in 2014, as well as Gramps that fell from a rating of 4.15 in 2013 to 3.41 in 2014.

A new rule added in 2014 is that unsupported programs no longer qualify for Users Choice Awards, but they are still listed at GenSoftReviews so they can be rated and reviewed. As a result, Personal Ancestral File was not awarded a Users Choice Award despite still being well liked with a score of 4.51 out of 5.

GenSoftReviews uses a time-weighted average score. The weight of every user rating goes down 50% every year, so newer opinions will be better reflected in the average score.

Congratulations go to all the 2014 winners. They are producing a product that their users like. GenSoftReviews hopes all genealogy software developers will use the feedback these reviews provide to improve their programs for their users.

For more information and a complete listing of current and past winners, see the [Users Choice Awards page](#).

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## **FUNNY BONE**

Here is some genealogy humor I found at:

<http://www.geneamusings.com/2006/08/what-were-their-parents-thinking.html>

What were their parents thinking?

Over on the Black-Sheep-L mailing list at Rootsweb there was a "roll call" of sorts - the question was "what is the strangest given name in your records?" There were plenty of entries, including these (with surnames in parentheses):

Lobbydew (Easter)  
Mahershalalbaz (Dyer)  
Versey Venus (Howell)  
Gool (Williams)  
Jappie Jay (Holcomb)  
Strangeman (Stanley)  
Styleman (Jordan)  
Plain Beaver Face (Washakie)  
Philantheatra (Farnsworth?)  
Rocksalonia (Farnsworth?)  
Hotley (Farnsworth?)  
Donegly (Farnsworth?)  
Algae (Farnsworth?)  
Arphaxed (Farnsworth?)

The last 6 were found by Janice Farnsworth in the book "Farnsworth Memorial," but she isn't sure they were all Farnsworth surname.

There were many other strange or curious given names submitted by the listers, but these struck my funny bone.

So what were their parents thinking? Or were they?

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

***For An Even More Comprehensive List of All Kinds of Genealogy Programs Being Offered Locally and Even Nationally, Please Visit My Blog I Write for the Library and Look At My Page Titled "Calendar of Local Genealogy Events".***

***Here Is A Direct Link To the Calendar:***

**<http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com/calendar-of-local-genealogy-events/>**

*(Additions Since Last Newsletter Indicated With An "\*" )*

Feb 10      Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program.  
TUE        130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7  
2015        PM.  
             **"Reading Between the Lines of the City Directory"**  
             Presented by Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, CG.

Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Feb 18 DuPage County Genealogical Society. Wednesday, February 18, 2015.  
WED Wheaton Public Library (Lower Level) 225 N. Cross St., Wheaton, IL 60187.  
2015 6:30 PM Refreshments. Society Business begins at 7:00 PM.  
Program Presentation 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM.  
Program title is "**Holy Cow! Where Are My Chicago Catholics Now?**".  
Guest speaker is Teresa Steinkamp McMillin.  
Society website at [www.dcg.org](http://www.dcg.org).  
Society blog at <http://dupagecountygenealogicalsociety.wordpress.com/>  
DuPage County History Museum website at [www.dupageco.org/museum](http://www.dupageco.org/museum)

Feb 21 CAGGNI. Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois. Meetings  
SAT held the 3rd Saturday of each month at Schaumburg Township District  
2015 Library  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL. 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM.  
(Check CAGGNI website for meeting location. Meeting locations have  
occurred at other locations than Schaumburg Library main location.)  
Topic for the meeting "**Wisconsin Historical Society Library and  
Archives: What Is In It? Everything!**"  
Presented by George Findlen  
Further information at: [www.caggni.org](http://www.caggni.org) or  
P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567

Mar 7 Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society. Saturday, March 7, 2015.  
SAT "**Irish Emigrants to North America: Before, During and After  
2015 the Famine**".  
Presented by Paul Milner  
Arlington Heights Senior Center.  
1801 West Central Road. Arlington Heights, IL.  
Pre-Meeting Round Table/Helping/Sharing at 9:00 AM  
Speaker program starts at 10:00 AM  
Visit the society website at [www.nwsgenealogy.org](http://www.nwsgenealogy.org)

Mar 10 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program.  
TUE 130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7  
2015 PM.  
**Break Out Sessions/Small Group Discussions.**  
Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Mar 21 CAGGNI. Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois. Meetings  
SAT held the 3rd Saturday of each month at Schaumburg Township District  
2015 Library  
130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL. 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM.  
(Check CAGGNI website for meeting location. Meeting locations have  
occurred at other locations than Schaumburg Library main location.)  
Topic for the meeting "**What's New in Technology?**"  
Presented by Ed Rosenthal  
Further information at: [www.caggni.org](http://www.caggni.org) or  
P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567

- Apr 4  
SAT  
2015 Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society. Saturday, April 4, 2015.  
**"Swab Your Cheek: How to Make the Most of DNA Kinship Results"**.  
 Presented by Marsha Peterson-Maass  
 Arlington Heights Senior Center.  
 1801 West Central Road. Arlington Heights, IL.  
 Pre-Meeting Round Table/Helping/Sharing at 9:00 AM  
 Speaker program starts at 10:00 AM  
 Visit the society website at [www.nwsgenealogy.org](http://www.nwsgenealogy.org)
- Apr 14  
TUE  
2015 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program.  
 130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.  
**"Using FamilySearch.org in Your Family History Research"**  
 Presented by Sandra Trapp.  
 Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
 Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>
- Apr 15  
WED  
2015 DuPage County Genealogical Society. Wednesday, April 15, 2015.  
 Wheaton Public Library (Lower Level) 225 N. Cross St., Wheaton, IL 60187.  
 6:30 PM Refreshments. Society Business begins at 7:00 PM.  
 Program Presentation 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM.  
 Program title is **"Cemetery Sleuthing Leads to Lessons Learned"**.  
 Guest speaker is Pat Biallas.  
 Society website at [www.dcfgs.org](http://www.dcfgs.org).  
 Society blog at <http://dupagecountygenealogicalsociety.wordpress.com/>  
 DuPage County History Museum website at [www.dupageco.org/museum](http://www.dupageco.org/museum)
- Apr 18  
SAT  
2015 CAGGNI. Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois. Meetings held the 3rd Saturday of each month at Schaumburg Township District Library  
 130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL. 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM.  
 (Check CAGGNI website for meeting location. Meeting locations have occurred at other locations than Schaumburg Library main location.)  
 Topic for the meeting **"Where Did I Put Grandpa? – Organizing For Genealogists"**  
 Presented by Caron Primas Brennan  
 Further information at: [www.caggni.org](http://www.caggni.org) or  
 P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567
- May 2  
SAT  
2015 Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society. Saturday, May 2, 2015.  
**"Researching Colonial American Ancestors"**.  
 Presented by Jane Haldeman  
 Arlington Heights Senior Center.  
 1801 West Central Road. Arlington Heights, IL.  
 Pre-Meeting Round Table/Helping/Sharing at 9:00 AM  
 Speaker program starts at 10:00 AM  
 Visit the society website at [www.nwsgenealogy.org](http://www.nwsgenealogy.org)
- May 12  
TUE  
2015 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program.  
 130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.

**"Finishing the Story: Researching World War I Military Records"**

Presented by Jennifer Holik.

Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.

Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

May 16  
SAT  
2015

CAGGNI. Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois. Meetings held the 3rd Saturday of each month at Schaumburg Township District Library

130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL. 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM.

(Check CAGGNI website for meeting location. Meeting locations have occurred at other locations than Schaumburg Library main location.)

Topic for the meeting **"Researching at Appomatox Courthouse: Genealogy through the Eyes of the Civil War"**

Presented by Dr. Daniel Hubbard

Further information at: [www.caggni.org](http://www.caggni.org) or

P.O. Box 59567, Schaumburg, IL 60159-0567

May 20  
WED  
2015

DuPage County Genealogical Society. Wednesday, May 20, 2015.

Wheaton Public Library (Lower Level) 225 N. Cross St., Wheaton, IL 60187.

6:30 PM Refreshments. Society Business begins at 7:00 PM.

Program Presentation 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

Program title is **"Marriage Records: How to Write Your Love Story"**.

Guest speaker is Cynthia M. De Bock.

Society website at [www.dcgcs.org](http://www.dcgcs.org).

Society blog at <http://dupagecountygenealogicalsociety.wordpress.com/>

DuPage County History Museum website at [www.dupageco.org/museum](http://www.dupageco.org/museum)

Jun 9  
TUE  
2015

Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program.

130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.

**Break Out Sessions/Small Group Discussions.**

Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.

Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Jul 14  
TUE  
2015

Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program.

130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.

**"Chicago Cemetery Research"**

Presented by Dan Niemiec.

Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.

Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Aug 11  
TUE  
2015

Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program.

130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7 PM.

**"Start Your Digging in 1940: Examine the 1940 Census for Clues and Information"**

Presented by Jeff Bockman.

Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.

Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Sep 8  
TUE

Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program.

130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7

- 2015 PM.  
**Break Out Sessions/Small Group Discussions.**  
 Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
 Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>
- Oct 13 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program.  
 TUE 130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7  
 2015 PM.  
**"Sound Research Practices: Sources and Citations"**  
 Presented by Ginger Frere.  
 Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
 Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>
- Nov 10 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program.  
 TUE 130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7  
 2015 PM.  
**"Stories of the Lost; Researching World War II Military Records"**  
 Presented by Jennifer Holik.  
 Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
 Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>
- Dec 8 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program.  
 TUE 130 S. Roselle Road. Schaumburg, IL, 60193. 7:30 PM. Room opens at 7  
 2015 PM.  
**Break Out Sessions/Small Group Discussions.**  
 Contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.  
 Visit STDL Genealogy Blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

