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## March 10, 2015 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our March 10, 2015 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program.

What does this really mean?

Prior to this "new" process, our program handouts would actually be paper handouts that were based on me often printing up the first page related to a web site that I wanted to mention. Then on the paper for the web site I would handwrite what things of importance are associated with the web site that the researcher should know. Maybe it was a new web site or maybe an important date related to a significant event or maybe a new database was released. Whatever it was I noted it on the paper of the first page of the web site.

The source for the vast majority of what is in the Handouts is the monthly Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Newsletter. From within this larger document I extract information on upcoming genealogy programs local to our area, important items from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Blog, as well as I summarize some key periodical articles of interest that I think are important to be aware of. The Handouts simply provide me with the opportunity to focus in on what I consider are important genealogical bits of information important to the researcher as well as to share my own personal thoughts on why it is of note.

You will also see a small redesign of the PDF Handout package. You will now see a Table of Contents on Page 1 listing what the following "handouts" are by topic. Within the Table of contents you can quickly access the handouts by using the hyperlinks and bookmarks that will get you quickly to your handout of interest. You will no longer have to scroll through the entire package of handouts to get to the one you want.

I also plan on use the "yellow highlight" tool within Word and highlight certain areas of these notes that I think are important to note. The visual highlighting will take your eyes to areas of importance to note. Please let me know if you think this OK or if it may be a distraction? I thought I would give it a try.

Going forward I plan on creating this document on a monthly basis that will include my notes regarding a web site of interest and a link to the web site itself.

The reader of this "handout" list can themselves then read my overview summary of the site and then link to the site directly themselves to get more details or print out what they want from site.

I will clearly identify my own comments when the handout is a combination of material that came from some other source such as Dick Eastman's blog as well as my own comments. I will indicate my comments in Italics, clearly marked so the reader can distinguish between the original verbiage and my own comments. If a handout item was completely created by me then you will see that noted at the top.

In this case, the entirety of the handout was created by me and will not be shown in Italics.

This program "Handout" information will then be uploaded to the Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Blog that is titled "Genealogy with Tony". This blog will be accessible from the library's main web site page at [www.schaumburglibrary.org](http://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 genealogy blog. You can access it through our library home page at [www.SchaumburgLibrary.org](http://www.SchaumburgLibrary.org) by scrolling across the top of the first page and look for the tab that says "Research 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". You may have to scroll down slightly on the page to see the information for the 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 the 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 APRIL 4, 2015**

***THE SOCIETY WILL BE MEETING ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> 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, April 4, 2015. The program for the morning is titled **"Swab Your Cheek: How to Make the Most of DNA Kinship Results"**. The speaker for the morning will be **Marsha Peterson-Maass**.

This talk 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®: Medical Family Tree Workbook and Fundamentals of Genealogy®: 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 Petersen-Maass got her start in genealogy in high school when she entered a family history project in the State of Illinois History competition and tied for State Champion. Her first formal training in genealogy was at The Newberry Library-Chicago in the beginner's class she now teaches. She is author of the Fundamentals of Genealogy® textbook series and blog. And today, along with teaching and lecturing on a wide range of topics, Marsha has a thriving forensic genealogy practice where she uses science and technology to measure portions of the evidence (like verifying adoption research with DNA test results).

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.

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**Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT  
REGULAR SOCIETY PROGRAM ON APRIL 15, 2015; ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO  
TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2015 IN NAPERVILLE, IL**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, April 15, 2015. The program scheduled for that evening is **“Early Cemetery Sleuthing Leads to Lessons Learned”**. The speaker for the program will be **Patricia Biallas**.

There is no regular society program during the month of March because the society will be having its Annual All-Day Conference on Saturday, March 14, 2015. The program will take place at the NIU Conference Center at 1120 East Diehl Rd. in Naperville, IL. Please visit the society’s portion of their website that addresses the 2015 Conference at:

<http://www.dcfgs.org/cpage.php?pt=106>

By the time you read this you will only have a short window to register. The society has announced that they were limiting attendance to the first 250 registered. If you do not pre-register, you can still take a chance and be a “walk-in” on the day of the event but it would be better for you to check in advance if the 250 person registration limit has been achieved. Otherwise, you would not be accepted as a “walk-in”.

You may visit the society's web page at:

[www.dcfgs.org](http://www.dcfgs.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 (CAGGNI) NEXT PROGRAM ON MARCH 21, 2015 AT THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SENIOR CENTER**

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, March 21, 2015 at the Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 W. Central Road, Arlington Heights IL starting at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"What's New in Technology"**. The speaker will be **Ed Rosenthal**.

Ed Rosenthal will present his very popular annual survey of emerging technologies. Sharing of the insights he gains from keeping tabs on new developments in the computing and digital imaging scenes will provide us all with a glimpse of what new tools will soon be available to leverage in our favorite obsession—genealogy!

You won't want to miss this program.

Don't miss this informative session.

You may visit the organization web page at:

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

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

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**Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON APRIL 14, 2015**

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, April 14, 2015. Our guest speaker for the program will be Sandra Trapp. Sandra will present a program titled "Using FamilySearch.org".

FamilySearch.org is the largest, free genealogy resource on the internet. This program will cover why you want to have an account; tips for searching the records; creating and editing your Family Tree; adding photos, stories and documents, accessing FamilySearch's digitized books, how to get help, searching the catalog and ordering film and a few other features of interest.

Sandra Trapp has provided genealogy programs for various local genealogy organizations and libraries. She volunteers at the Naperville Family History Center as its Resource Chairman and is a former Director of the Genealogical Forum of Elmhurst and CAGGNI program chair. Sandra has been researching her ancestors, her husband's son-in-law's and friends' families for 16 years.

You may visit the library's web page at:

[www.SchaumburgLibrary.org](http://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 – CANADA'S LONG FORM CENSUS DEBATE CONTINUES

**The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated February 3, 2015.**

This debate in Canada has been going on for some time and shows no signs of being resolved. Much of the debate centers around a provision in proposed laws to not make the release of census records' data mandatory after 92 years – the person filling out the census forms would have to explicitly give permission to allow the release of the information 92 years later. Another debate revolves a proposal to require mandatory jail time for anyone who does not fill out a census form! (Wow! I bet that provision won't pass.)

You can read more in an article in CBC News at <http://goo.gl/hQ2wOx>.

My thanks to newsletter reader Ken Lange for telling me about this article.

### **Comments by Tony Kierna**

*I had to do a double-take when I read the above. In fact, I am still doing a double-take.*

*In Canada, there is pending legislation forming that would add another layer of complexity to providing census information for the Canadian Censuses of the future. One part of the bill deals with removing wording that implies that a non-compliant individual that refuses to provide census data could be subject to jail time. Another part of the proposed legislation offers the opportunity to an individual to state at the time of the filling out of the census data whether or not they would want that data shared 92 years later when the Canadian census data would be released to the public and to researchers.*

*Read what I wrote above again and go to the link to see the full article.*

*An individual can state now when the census data is filled out in Canada whether the data should or should not be released 92 years later!*

*WOW! And researchers in the United States think we have a hard time gaining access to our own census data because we have to wait 72 years to see census data. I think we need to cross our fingers and hope that what is brewing in Canada does not cross the border to our country. Canada already has a 92 year delay to release census data compared to our 72 year window. Now imagine that your Canadian cousin of today might note that 92 years from now his census entry data might not appear in future databases because they noted they did not want it made available.*

*Will future researchers of Canadian data be able to determine if someone they seek is simply not found or chose to not make their data available? Imagine the frustration of future researchers if something like this comes to fruition!*

*Other countries around the world have even stricter release intervals for census data. Many European countries wait 100 years before census data is released to the public.*

*Our access is darn good compared to others. But privacy trends seem paramount today. And now privacy is even being considered 92 years out into the future as opposed to current privacy today. As a genealogist, I can only hope that the Canadian proposal does not take "root" (pun, intended) with what sounds like very difficult to manage methods.*

*All we can do is see where this is going to go.*

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## Handout #7 – BILLIONGRAVES.COM ADDS PHOTO REQUESTS

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated February 3, 2015.



BillionGraves.com is a great online site that contains more than 12 million photographs and transcriptions of tombstones. (To find a list of my past articles about BillionGraves, start at <http://goo.gl/P21cD4>.) Now the company has added a new feature to the service: if a tombstone you wish to find is not already available on the service, you can place a request to have someone photograph it.

Once the request has been filled by a volunteer who takes the picture, uploads it, and also transcribes the information on the tombstone, the person making the request receives an email notice stating that the requested information is now available.

Quoting from the BillionGraves.com Blog:

"Photo Requests are requests from a BillionGraves registered user for one or more photos to be taken in a specific cemetery. The user is looking for a particular headstone and is requesting that another BillionGraves volunteer that lives nearby, go find the headstone and take a photo of it for them."

"Many of you have already utilized the tremendous power of the Photo Request board and have gone to social media to share your experiences! Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who are so eager to help other genealogists in need!"



You can read more at <http://blog.billiongraves.com>.

### Comments by Tony Kierna

We search and search and then search some more looking for cemetery related data such as gravesites and headstones. BillionGraves.com has been around for a little

bit as has FindAGrave.com. Sometimes we are rewarded with frequent visits to gravesite website like the two I mentioned above. Sometimes we will see that an ancestor is now noted as being at a particular cemetery. Sometimes we are rewarded even more fully to discover that not only is an ancestor's name mentioned but a photo of the gravestone is also included.

Now it looks like BillionGraves.com is taking it to another level. This service like all others happens to have data included in their material because volunteers or family researchers visit the cemeteries where their ancestors are laid to rest and take the time to maybe photograph the headstone and then participate with the site to upload the data including the photo.

BillionGraves.com will be accepting requests for graveside information to be added to BillionGraves.com. In order to submit a photo gravesite request you must be registered with BillionGraves.com. Then you, the requester, must know for whom you are seeking. You must know that a loved one is buried at a particular cemetery. Even more helpful is to also know the exact plot location in the cemetery for the deceased. You submit the request with all the known information and await someone that may live local to the area of the cemetery sees the request and takes it upon themselves to actually go to the cemetery and snap the picture.

Much of our family research focuses on geographic areas far from where we live. These are the places of our ancestors from a long time ago. They may have moved over time but deceased family members were laid to rest in the local cemeteries. It may simply be prohibitive for you to get there and capture images of these deceased ancestral members. Now, you can become a registered member with BillionGraves.com and submit a request to the service for a phot to be taken of a known deceased ancestor buried in a known cemetery.

This sounds like a more formal service but it is very much similar to the Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness site that also does similar things in helping researchers that are not local to an area of research interest.

The message is also similar to "Do unto others as you would have done unto you". Maybe you can help out a researcher that is far outside the area you live should they need photos of ancestral gravesites in the area you live.

BillionGraves.com has been very active over the last few years expanding their services and making partnerships with other organizations. They do seem to be performing at a high level of activity. Definitely take a look at <http://blog.billiongraves.com/2015/02/tips-and-tricks-billiongraves-photo-requests/> that will get you to this new service.

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## Handout #8 – ANCESTRY.COM BETA WEBSITE RECEIVES A MAJOR UPDATE

*The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated February 4, 2015.*

 Ancestry.com has just announced a major update to the user interface of the popular genealogy website. The new version presently is in beta test and will not be rolled out to production until the programmers are satisfied with the new software.

I have had a brief look at the new beta version and found that it includes a new visual design, especially for viewing the pages with a tablet computer or a "smartphone." The new interface features "lifestories," a narrative of a person's life. The information on the screen is visually appealing and includes facts of interest to genealogists, such as the age of the parents on the day of a child's birth and other ages that are important life events. I also like the prominent display of sources.

The new user interface runs entirely on a web browser; there is no separate app to download to the tablet or smartphone.

Here is the official announcement from Ancestry.com:

Over the past year, we have been conducting extensive research and testing to gather user feedback on our existing Ancestry website and to identify critical pain points. As a result, we have been working on a groundbreaking initiative to evolve the Ancestry website to meet the needs of our users. We will introduce a new and improved Ancestry experience that makes it easier for anyone to discover and tell the rich, unique story of their family.

The improved Ancestry website includes:

- A new LifeStory view to transform your ancestors' facts and events into engaging, unique stories
- A new, intuitive, modern look to streamline your work flows and make your family story the focus
- Historical Insights to discover significant historical events that your ancestors may have experienced
- A new Facts View to make it easier to validate facts with sources, and edit and review facts contextually
- A new Media Gallery where you can consolidate all your media in one place

We will be showcasing the Ancestry beta at RootsTech, Feb. 12-14. Visitors to the Ancestry booth will be able to opt in to participate in the beta. For those not at RootsTech who would like to be invited to the beta, visit this link to request to be on the waitlist: <http://home.ancestry.com/beta>.

We will be inviting new participants off the waitlist to join the beta over the next few months.

**Comments by Tony Kierna**

Nothing stays the same forever. Genealogists certainly know that and are pretty resilient in adapting to changes as they occur. If you don't, your research capabilities might very well be negatively impacted.

Ancestry.com is in the process of working through a revision of their website. They currently have a "beta" website out there showcasing some of the future appearances to the site and the functionality. For you to see it before it becomes final you will first need to be an existing subscriber to Ancestry.com. You will need to register yourself as a "beta" tester which will then allow you to go on a "wait" test to see if you are selected. You may or may not be selected to actually access the site.

If selected to test the proposed site, you will be able to then submit your comments to Ancestry.com that should be "the good, the bad and the ugly" of your experience with the proposed new site format and appearance.

Here is a link to an Ancestry.com write-up of what changes are on the drawing board:

<http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2015/02/19/sneak-peak-new-ancestry-website-coming>

I would encourage you to just not visit the Ancestry provided material above, but to also look at the significant number of comments that were left at the above link.

As I mentioned at our recent monthly genealogy program, this is the time of the year that coincides with RootsTech when major announcements are made from the big time players in the genealogy community about new developments among a myriad of products and services. I guess I would call an Ancestry.com website re-do as a "major" thing.

You can read about the upcoming changes and just visualize them. Or you can sign up as a beta tester and hope you are called to active website beta testing mode to get a real hands on experience on what is on the drawing board. Your opinions are important if selected. They want to know what you think. You do not need to be a "techie" programmer type to participate. You probably do want to be someone that is not afraid to explore and try the links and give feedback on your impressions. The more Ancestry hears from customers, the more the final product will hopefully reflect all of the concerns expressed.

Think about it. Somewhere down the road the new version will come out and you personally may have some impact on what the world sees.

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## Handout #9 – “CONFESSIONS OF A GENEABLOGGER”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the December/January 2015, Volume 9, Number 5 issue of Internet Genealogy.

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I thought that a very interesting article, one near and dear to me, is titled “Confessions of a Geneablogger”. The author of the article is Lisa A. Alzo, a very good blogger whose blog is called “The Accidental Genealogist”. Her blog can be found at [www.theaccidentalgenealogist.com](http://www.theaccidentalgenealogist.com).

For those of you that know me and interact with our library and genealogy program, you know that I am the author of our library’s genealogy blog at WordPress.com. So this article hit a note with me when I saw it.

Blogging is a great way to get yourself and your genealogy research out onto the internet. With a presence in a blog you open up the possibilities of being discovered by as yet an unknown cousin. These connections can expand your own research because these newly discovered often bring even more aspects of family research to add to your story. And vice versa. You more than likely have information to share with them that they were not aware of.

You can find some basic blogging platforms at both Blogger at [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com) (you need to have a Google Account to use Blogger.com) and WordPress at [www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com). These sites are free and offer large amounts of functionality to help you get your word out. You can also visit a site called Geneabloggers that is maintained by Thomas MacEntee who identifies what he considers the top blogging sites focused on genealogy. In fact, my blog on behalf of the Schaumburg Township district Library was recognized by him as being one of note. You can take a look at over 3,000 blogs among many different categories at Geneabloggers at [www.geneabloggers.com](http://www.geneabloggers.com).

The author has identified five reasons to consider blogging as well as five things that give her pause from blogging.

Five reasons to blog are:

- **Giving Ancestors a Voice** – all those wonderful stories of your ancestors that you may have personally been aware of or have discovered can all have a life on your blog. Their lives were important. They may have been simple people struggling through life. Don’t let them remain in obscurity.
- **Connecting with Cousins** – blogs are affectionately known in the genealogy community as “cousin bait”, just waiting to be discovered by someone searching a term or name that connects to your blog. Don’t we all try random Google searches often using surnames of interest to us. Your blog could be one of the higher up hits in the list of results. You can be discovered by cousins.

- **Inspiring and Educating Others** – do you know a great deal about some aspect of genealogy or your own research. If so, a blog is a great platform to get that information out for discovery. It can be shared worldwide. You can even get comments left for you related to a topic of interest that adds even more knowledge to the subject, something you may not have been aware of yourself.
- **Engaging with Other Genealogists** – you may have started blogging to get your information out there. Then you may discover you are developing great friendships among other bloggers you interact with. These interactions help to encourage and inspire each other to even do more in your research efforts. You are always in the loop and not isolated in the genealogy community.
- **Marketing** – blogging is a great way to advertise your skills whether they be at a professional level or at a level of just being one of the best genealogical researchers out there in a non-professional way!

Interestingly, the author also expresses that there are certain things that stop her from blogging or thinking twice before she puts words or stories to the blog.

Here are the five things noted by the author as reasons that often stop her from blogging:

- **Privacy Concerns** – sometimes you just have to think twice about letting it all out! Some of us are more private than others and like it to remain that way. Others just want to share everything without any hesitation. There is a balance to be had here. You will know your level of balance on what you want to share and what you find necessary to withhold.
- **The “Who Cares? Syndrome** – you have a lot on your mind when you want to compose your stories as blog posts. Every word is important to you. But what is important may be of no use to anyone else. Readers may care nothing about your words. Blogging is something you do not just want to do once. Daily or weekly posts to your blog give a signal of commitment. You may not get worldwide acclaim, but if you start blogging about your family history research, even your cousins may be impressed and will care what words you put to blog post. And when you receive that great complimentary comment left on your blog post, you will be on Cloud 9!
- **Technology Glitches/Issues** – you just want to write and not be a blogging programmer needing to know all kinds of programming language tricks to get your words out there. For the most part, sites like Blogger and WordPress do not require you to have a Ph.D. in blogging programming language. You become knowledgeable in the basics of those systems to get you posts onto the Internet. But you still have to learn those processes. We may still face that the internet is down when we want to write or our Wi-Fi signal accessing the internet is not strong. And when we face these we may just decide to jump on to another project and not do any blogging.
- **Finding Good Images** – sometimes we want to glitz our blog posts up to make them more attractive to visitors. Sometimes the glitz and not the content attract visitors to your sites. (Strange, but true that

magnificent content is not seen as important yet some glitzy image draws the crowd!) Our personal pictures of our family research may be teasers, but sometimes we don't have any really good ones. We can always get and use stock photos but sometimes you need to pay for the privilege in order to get those great images. Some places give you royalty-free images. But even with these, you need to know the Terms of Service to get these royalty-free images.

- **Fear of Rejection/Fending Off "Trolls"** – when you write you take a chance that your words will be challenged or mocked at laughed at. Sometimes in a blog, if you allow comments, you may get some nasty comments or even worse, tons of "spam" comments. And with these "spam" comments, you will spend some time removing them from your blog. In fact, check your blog host to be sure you can set your blog up so that any comments left on a post are reviewed by you and authorized to be appear on the post. **Do not just let comments automatically post.** Maybe you just don't have a thick skin to ward off any criticisms. Then you realize that you can't please everyone all of the time.

The fact that the author is still blogging indicates to me that the positives far outweigh the negatives. I heartily second that view. If you do not create a published family history in book form, a blog can really fill that gap for you. This method also opens up the ability for readers of your blog to connect with you ever so easily. You can be discovered so much more readily opening up many more advancements in your research through newly discovered cousins.

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## Handout #10 – “GENEALOGY JUMPSTARTS”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the December/January 2015, Volume 9, Number 5 issue of Internet Genealogy.

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I also thought that another short and sweet article of great interest for me was one titled “Genealogy Jumpstarts”. The author of the article is David A. Norris. We all may get “Genealogy Block” in the similar vein as Writers get “Writer’s Block” and become unable to advance their ability to put words to paper.

The author has done a good job identifying 6 things to do to jumpstart your genealogy research when you have diagnosed yourself with “Genealogy Block”.

Here are the 6 things to try when you are “blocked”:

- **Go Antiquing Online** – take a visit to eBay. You can search for paper collectibles such as postcards, photographs, historical memorabilia and postal history that might have a direct connection to an ancestor. Try searching online museum collections and auction catalogs for genealogical names tied to your research.
- **Catch Up On Your Photo Boxes and Picture Albums** – do you know that pile of photos you have that have never been reviewed thoroughly? Now is the time to get jump-started with that project. Get those pictures sorted and labeled for those you know. Digitize them. Share the digitized images with your cousins. Share the unknown digitized pictures with your cousins who might be able to identify some. But get something into their hands otherwise the pile of pictures will just be that, a pile!
- **Visit Old Family Home Places on Google Maps** – do you have family research connections in locations throughout the country far away? Most of us do. Why not visit these places with Google Maps. You can get aerial and satellite views of these locations. You can get street-level views of homes of your ancestors that still exist. You can do this in the blink of an eye without ever having to get into your car.
- **“So, What Have You Done For Me Lately?”** – revisit the many internet locations you have done in the past that helped with your research. Perhaps, many of these sites have been updated with new data that you have not yet discovered. Even check out your local library to see what new books they have added to their genealogical collection that might be of interest to you.
- **Try Some Oddball Record Sources** – have you looked at census data, military records, land records and the like over and over? Try a record source you have not previously investigated. How about wills and probates of your ancestors? How about looking at Google Books at <http://books.google.com> online to see what they have to help your

research. How about becoming familiar with the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org/index.php> to see what they have? Get the picture. **Now is the time to try a new resource.** You may not find your family but you just expanded your research skills and knowledge.

- **Re-Read Your Old Paper Files and Genealogy Notes** – maybe you still have paper notes that have not been entered digitally into your lineage program? Maybe you have discovered some new information that might connect to some other piece of information you noted years ago. **You need to revisit all of your original research notes and documents.** You might be able to tie loose ends together with something you actually noted years ago but have not revisited in light of new research you have done.

**We all get “genealogy block” at times.** When it happens it can be devastating. Know that you will experience it. **When it happens have a back-up plan to do some of the above to get your genealogy mojo going again.** You will be happy you planned in advance to do something when the “genealogy block” happens.

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