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April 14, 2015 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our April 14, 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. 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 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 MAY 2, 2015

THE SOCIETY WILL BE MEETING ON THE 1ST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH STARTING AT 10:00 AM AT THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SENIOR CENTER LOCATED AT 1801 WEST CENTRAL ROAD IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS. THERE IS A 60 MINUTE ROUND-TABLE HELP SESSION THAT STARTS AT 9:00 AM PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL PROGRAM.

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society (New Name) will take place on Saturday morning, May 2, 2015. The program for the morning is titled **“Researching Colonial American Ancestors”**. The speaker for the morning will be **Jane Haldeman**.

Jane's passion for genealogy began in 8th grade with a school assignment. Her other passion is technology which lead her into theater as a stagehand. Today she has blended her love of family history and technology and shares that love with others. Jane lives in the suburbs of Chicago and her lectures focus on technology as applied to genealogical research. She is owner of "It's Relative," www.itsrelative.net; President, Illinois State Genealogical Society; Immediate Past-President, Fox Valley Genealogical Society; past Registrar Fort Payne Chapter, NSDAR; and past Design and Technical Editor, Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly Journal.

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**

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**.

You may visit the society's web page at:

www.dcgs.org

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

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

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

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGGNI) NEXT PROGRAM ON APRIL 18, 2015 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, April 18, 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 **"Where Did I Put Grandpa: Organizing for Genealogists"**. The speaker will be **Caron Primas Brennan**.

Organizing your genealogy information--digital and print-based--so that you can find what you want when you want it can be a daunting task.

You may visit the organization web page at:

www.CAGGNI.org

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

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**Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT
GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON MAY 12, 2015**

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, May 12, 2015. Our guest speaker for the program will be Jennifer Holik. Jennifer will present a program titled "Finishing the Story: Researching World War I and II Military Records".

Tracing the life of a World War I or II soldier can be challenging. Researchers have been conditioned to believe "All the Records Burned!" Some did, but an abundance of other resources exist to reconstruct service history. Many researchers are unaware of the numerous military records and resources available.

In this program, explore the lives, service, and deaths of Michael Kokoska, Frank Winkler, and Robert Brouk. Genealogical, historical, and military records will be shown and discussed. Jennifer will demonstrate how to write the stories of your soldier through a brief reading from her books Stories of the Lost and The Tiger's Widow.

In this engaging and informative presentation, Jennifer shares:

- A trip through time, exploring the lives of three men.
- Moving stories about each man's life and death.
- Numerous resources search for military records to reconstruct service history.
- Tips on weaving military, genealogical, and historical records together.
- Examples of how a military story can be written.

You may visit the library's web page at:

www.SchaumburgLibrary.org

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

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

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Handout #6 – GENEALOGY ROADSHOW CASTING CALL FOR 2016

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated February 25, 2015.



A couple of newsletter readers have asked, "How can I have my genealogy brickwall researched by the folks at Genealogy Roadshow on PBS?" Now you may have an answer.

The producers of Genealogy Roadshow are looking for people to be on Season 3 of the show and applications are being accepted. Obviously, not everyone can be accepted. I am guessing the producers will select candidates who have the most interesting challenges. In any case, you won't know unless you apply!

The Casting Call application for next year's Genealogy Roadshow may be found at

<http://genealogyroadshow.org/casting-page>

Will we see you on TV?

Comments by Tony Kierna

So you want to be famous or infamous?? Do you think you have a great genealogical story already in your possession that perhaps you have not been able to close out?? Would you like to be on TV to tell your story? If you answered "yes" to the above questions then you might want to place your name and story for consideration to the Genealogy Roadshow production that is on Public TV. The show just started out in 2014, had 7 episodes that just concluded for 2015 and will be coming back in 2016.

The show has been very popular among viewers because the "stars" showcased in the episodes are ordinary genealogical researchers. They are not the Hollywood type that you generally find on other genealogy shows such as "Who Do You Think You Are?".

As with so many reality shows that exist, the producers of these shows reach out to the world at large looking for potential new stories for future episodes. That is what is going on with this show at the moment. They are looking for these stories with interesting people to share them via their online, self-nominating submission process.

The link above will get you to the application process. Let's be honest, your story has to have some elements being interesting enough that it might be selected for further research. In fact on some of the other more celebrity oriented genealogy shows, many celebrities have been left standing by the wayside because the producers of these shows could not find anything of "TV" note to produce a story for

them and then air it on national TV. So while we wish that our genealogical stories are fascinating, the producers of these shows might think not.

During the recently concluded 2015 shows, there was someone locally that was from the Libertyville, IL area that was in fact included in one of the episodes. Her name was Gail Lukasik. Her story was deemed fascinating enough to be selected for the show as well as for her to be on the show. Here is a Chicago Tribune article that was written about her appearance and her story:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/libertyville/community/chi-ugc-article-chicago-area-mystery-author-gail-lukasik-on-g-2015-01-19-story.html>

You can also visit Gail's website where she also presents her story at:

<http://gaillukasik.com/>

If Gail can be selected then it is possible you too also have a fascinating genealogical story/mystery that still needs to be concluded with research being conducted by researchers associated with the show. That is the beauty of the show. You have a good story to tell but do not have all the research done. You still have much to discover. Let the Genealogy Roadshow uncover more of your story and surprise you with the results in front of a public audience on TV!

Our Genealogy and Local History Librarian's Group will be meeting again in April 2015. It appears that we will have the opportunity to meet with Gail Lukasik and find out more about her story and all the hoops she had to jump through to appear on Genealogy Roadshow.

I hope to have more to share in the future after our librarian's group gathering.

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Handout #7 – ILLINOIS PROPOSAL TO ALLOW ACCESS TO LANDLOCKED GRAVES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated February 28, 2015.

State Representative David R. Leitch has introduced a bill in the State of Illinois' 99th General Assembly that provides that owners of private property on which a landlocked grave is located have a duty to allow ingress and egress to the grave by:

1. family members and descendants of deceased persons buried there;
2. any cemetery plot owner; and
3. any person engaging in genealogy research who has given reasonable notice to the owner of record or to the occupant of the property or both.

The bill also provides that a landowner may not erect a wall, fence, or other structure or device that prevents ingress and egress to the grave unless the wall, fence, or other structure or device has a gate or other means by which ingress and egress can be accomplished.

You can read the full text of the bill at <http://goo.gl/eov3ul>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

This sounds like a very interesting development in Illinois. I personally have never encountered trying to make a visit to a gravesite on private property. But I do believe that it must happen more than I think. And I do believe that if it were you personally researching an ancestral line that led to an ancestor's gravesite being on private property, that you too would want assurance that you could visit the site to pay your respects.

Many of our ancestors that lived in rural farm areas may very well have been buried on their own property before laws were enacted mandating other burial locations. Perhaps your research was able to uncover this fact. Perhaps you were able to make contact with a current owner of property on which were buried the remains of your ancestor. Yes it is private property and the owner does not have to grant you access to the property. After all, there are "No Trespassing" laws that could put in your legal jeopardy if you try to go onto someone else's property without their permission.

It is possible that some kind of working understanding could be granted to a descendant of an ancestor to allow ingress and egress on private property with the owner's permission for a descendant to actually go onto the property for a gravesite visit. The fact that a legislative act is being considered also proves that there are plenty of occasions where descendants are not allowed to enter private property in order to pay their respects to ancestors on these landlocked gravesites on private property.

Because enough individuals have been refused access to private property, it now looks like an Illinois legislator is proposing that exceptions to access remains on

private property be put into law. The link above in the Dick Eastman article provides a great deal of detailed wording on what is being proposed.

I can sympathize with a researcher that makes such a discovery of an ancestor being buried on private property. Now in Illinois at least there are words being created in the legislative process that will offer hope for easier access to those ancestors buried on landlocked private property.

Only time will tell whether this law is passed and will take effect in Illinois.

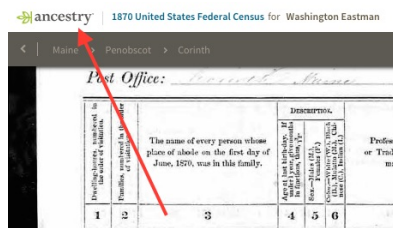
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Handout #8 – HERITAGEQUEST ONLINE NOW PROVIDES DATA FROM ANCESTRY.COM

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated March 9, 2015.

HeritageQuest Online (a division of ProQuest) has supplied genealogy information to libraries for years. Many public libraries subscribe to HeritageQuest Online and make the information available to patrons who visit the library. Some libraries also offer in-home access to library card holders through the library's website.

HeritageQuest Online has now announced that the genealogy information within its service is being replaced with information from Ancestry.com. Indeed, I logged onto my local public library's web site this morning, went to the HeritageQuest Online database, and performed a search for an elusive great-great-grandfather of mine. When a census page appeared on the screen it looked clearer than what I have seen before and it also had an Ancestry logo in the upper-left corner:



The changes will be uncomfortable to those who are used to searching through the old menus. They may have to learn to use new menus. However, the census image that appeared on my screen appeared to be sharper than what I have seen before. So did a few other pages I looked at although I obviously could not check all the millions of pages to see if they were all the same or not.

Parent company ProQuest did issue a press release about the change five days ago although I apparently missed it. Here is the announcement that I found this morning after performing a Google search to look for it:

ProQuest Advances Genealogical Research with HeritageQuest Online Authoritative family history resource is now powered by Ancestry

ANN ARBOR, MI, March 4, 2015 – ProQuest is advancing the research experience for family history enthusiasts and genealogical experts with a new version of its popular **HeritageQuest® Online** <http://bit.ly/1Dv5beg>, a treasury of high quality genealogical and historical information. This authoritative family history resource, which can be accessed from the library or remotely through the library portal, has a **new interface powered by Ancestry**, enriching the search experience and streamlining the research process.

The new HeritageQuest Online offers new capabilities and benefits to patrons:

- The intuitive interface provides a fresh user experience that will be familiar to Ancestry.com users.
- The U.S. Federal Census 1790-1940 – a highly valued resource that now includes complete every-name indexes and unique interactive maps.
- Census data exceeding 700 million records that can now be discovered using Exact Match, Phonetic, Variant, Soundex, Wildcard and Keyword Searches.
- Searching full-text of the expanded collection of more than 40,000 family and local history books – is now enhanced with thumbnail images and hit highlighting.
- A new Image Viewer offers basic and advanced capabilities without any plug-in, making it easy to share images with family and friends.
- Image resolution that is significantly improved with the addition of greyscale and color.

“The enhancements in HeritageQuest Online illustrate a commitment to transforming the research experience for the growing community of genealogists,” said Andon Baltakov, vice president, product management, ProQuest. “ProQuest’s comprehensive collection of family history resources and historical news delivers a winning combination to help library patrons discover their family history.”

The enhancements are a result of the expanded partnership and distribution agreement between ProQuest and Ancestry announced last June. Extensive training services and materials from both companies provide learning opportunities for library staff and patrons alike. For example, the new Research Aid will replace the Learning Center and include topics such as Getting Started, Census, Beyond the Basics, Military and Ethnic.

ProQuest also publishes LibGuides and 2-minute videos, and hosts complimentary full-day workshops and webinars for genealogy librarians. Register for webinars [here](#).

The new version of HeritageQuest Online is available now to all subscribing libraries. ProQuest offers libraries a broad portfolio of quality genealogical products with breadth and depth in content that delivers a complete research solution for beginner and advanced family historians.

About ProQuest (www.proquest.com)

ProQuest connects people with vetted, reliable information. Key to serious research, the company’s products are a gateway to the world’s knowledge including dissertations, governmental and cultural archives, news, historical collections and ebooks. ProQuest technologies serve users across the critical points in research, helping them discover, access, share, create and manage information.

The company’s cloud-based technologies offer flexible solutions for librarians, students and researchers through the ProQuest®, Bowker®, Dialog®, ebrary®, EBL® and Serials Solutions® businesses – and notable research tools such as the Summon® discovery service, the RefWorks® Flow™ collaboration platform, the Pivot™ research development tool and the Intota™ library services platform. The company is headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with offices around the world.

Comments by Tony Kierna

HeritageQuest has been an available genealogy database our library has offered for some time. It was a database that was made available only to subscribing libraries and was not available for subscription to the general public. In fact, HeritageQuest was one of the early pioneers in making census records available digitally. It also offered online access to the library cardholders for that library. This was a big plus for it since Ancestry.com library version did not allow this. Great opportunity if you wanted to search census records from home. I often recommended to researchers that they still utilize HeritageQuest in their online census research because it was known that the quality of the census data images was quite good. If you discovered an online census image somewhere else and were having a hard time reading it, you might discover that looking at the same image in HeritageQuest gave you a very clear image that was more easily readable.

Unfortunately, HeritageQuest languished over the years. The product was not updated while other competing products were surpassing it in new development. HeritageQuest also lacked full name search capability. Its census search engine only allowed it to search for "head of household" names. This was a real weakness because other census search products were incorporating an "all-name" search engine.

Another evidence of decline of HeritageQuest was that it also failed to keep up with additional census data and images when both the 1930 and 1940 census were released to the public. You could not really search either of these two census releases simply because HeritageQuest did not bring in that data.

HeritageQuest still exists. However, it is now using the data from Ancestry.com. You will see the term now associated with HeritageQuest as being "powered by Ancestry". Plus, if you visit the database through our library you will find a "fresh" new appearance that will greet you.

Since it is now using Ancestry.com data you will find that the data can be "all-name" searched. If you are looking for a 10 year old in a particular census you now have the capability to find that person directly and not just the head of the household. Also, because it is now using Ancestry data, you will now see data for the 1930 and 1940 census. HeritageQuest now also offers many more search methods to utilize such as Soundex, Phonetic, Exact Match etc., methods that did not exist in the old HeritageQuest.

You will also discover some research aids highlighted on the newly designed page that you can avail yourself of.

So HeritageQuest is not dead. It has now just been resurrected again under the "power of Ancestry". Check it out!

If you have used HeritageQuest in its previous form, I would encourage you to make a revisit. The database can be accessed from home by those in our library that have been issued a library card from us. If you are not with our library, check with your home library to see if they have this product. My guess is that they do. You should then be able to access it from your home using your library card issued to you by your library.

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Handout #9 – “USING FAMILYSEARCH TO SOLVE GENEALOGICAL PROBLEMS – 15 TIPS”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the January-March 2015, Volume 41, Number 1 issue of NGS Magazine.

I thought that a very good article in this issue is one titled “Using FamilySearch to Solve Genealogical Problems: 15 Tips”. The author of the article is James Ison, AG, CG.

The author does a good job in offering some very useable tips on how to get the most from FamilySearch. Searching large scale databases using common names can be a frustrating exercise for the average researcher, especially if you are only using the basic search template that appears at the beginning of the search exercise. The author offers the many tips to help you find the records you seek.

Here are the 15 tips offered in the article:

- **Tip 1 – Use Life Event and Relationship Filters** – searching with just using a surname can be daunting. At FamilySearch, consider using the advance filter that combines the surname you seek with adding on a Life Event and/or Relationship filter that is available. If you know the person had a wife, combine the surname search with the wife’s first/maiden name. Or if you know the person was married, enter in the surname and the place by state where the marriage occurred.
- **Tip 2 – Use Residence and Restrict by Records** – search results by surname only may only give you a long list of hits that might start with the 1940 census, then the 1930 census and etc. If you are looking for someone in the 1880 census, select the filter for “Search with a Life Event” then enter in the town and state you think the name is associated with and finally follow that by the year 1880. You may be lucky enough to get the hit immediately without having to scroll through long lists of results. Granted, all the combinations must be met to get the result.
- **Tip 3 – Use Wild Cards *** - if you are not getting results with combination search inputs, consider using the “wild card” search process where you only enter in the first few letters of what you seek followed by a an “*”. Normally you may have to enter in at least 3 letters and then the asterisk. FamilySearch allows you to enter the asterisk after the first letter. When in doubt of spelling, try the wild card search and see results that are more manageable to view through.
- **Tip 4 – Use Wild Cards ?** – looking for a JAMESON that could be spelled as JAMISON. Why do multiple searches on each when you can incorporate the “?” as a wildcard. In the above example you can place the “?” where the “e” is in the surname and it will find for you all those

spelled JAMESON as well as JAMISON. Or think of HOOVER that might be misspelled as HOOVEN in the database. If you search using exactly HOOVER you will not find HOOVEN. Put the question mark at the end in this case or move it around within the last name to possibly catch any other misspellings.

- **Tip 5 – Search By First Name Only** – sometimes no matter how hard you try using a surname, you come up with nothing. The name could have been so badly transcribed or the first letter could have been entered in completely wrong meaning you will never find it. Try just searching using a First Name only. It helps a little if the first name is a little less common like Gertrude instead of Mary. Try adding on some other qualifiers like location or age and you may get a hits list that allows you to browse through and find your hit. You might then see how hard it might have been for the transcriber to transcribe the name with such a hard to read image or writing.
- **Tip 6 – Use Parent-Only Searching** – maybe you are looking for a SMITH or JONES. These can be tough to search. Consider searching by using “Search with a Relationship” which can allow you to add in the parents’ first names of the person you seek or the parents first and last names. You may get good results with this combination search.
- **Tip 7 – Finding Married Names** – for young girls in a family they will appear in that family as children. As they age and get married, you may have a difficult time finding them without knowing their new last name. You might try searching for them by not searching them directly! Do not try using the general Surname/First Name fields to search. Instead, use the Parent Field search only. If you know the father’s first and last name and the mother’s first and maiden name, just try searching with those terms. If you do not know the maiden name of the mother in the Parent field, just try the first name.
- **Tip 8 – Use the Source Film Number** – many times when you search FamilySearch you will obtain indexed results but without an image of the record itself. Look at the end of the indexed record in the list and see if there is a “GS” number noted. It stands for Genealogical Society of Utah. This means there is a microfilm for the record. You can order the film from FamilySearch using the GS number and have it delivered to a Family History Center or Affiliate for viewing. Many times there is much more in the actual image of the record than what was extracted through transcription.
- **Tip 9 – Know the Online Collections that Relate Specifically to Your Research** – if you start doing a general search in FamilySearch you will be accessing ALL of the records which can result in thousands of hits for the name you search. But let’s say you are searching for an Alabama ancestor. Rather than search all records, click on the image of the world map for the United States. Then look at the left-hand side of the screen for “Alabama”. Select that and you will only be searching Alabama records thus giving you far fewer results to filter through. Look at the details of the files within the state just to see the magnitude of the records contained. You might even select that database alone.

- **Tip 10 – Browsing Can Be a Blast** – all databases are not indexed, meaning that entering a surname will not produce any results. Plus FamilySearch does not provide you with a search box when it cannot be searched. Instead, look at a database title of interest to you that is un-indexed but has images. It will basically tell you a file is composed of only images that can be browsed. They give you a grand total of the number of images. That is often a daunting number. However, FamilySearch breaks down the images generally by geographic areas. Click your way through how it is structured to see if a town name or parish name is identified. If so, you can browse through the images for that data for your surname just like an online microfilm. The big file might have noted 150,000 records but your specific town or parish in that total may have now shrunken to 3,000 records for you to browse.
- **Tip 11 – Using Partner Sites** – some found records may be indicated as being available from a partner site. You can click on that to leave FamilySearch and visit the partner site. The partner site may be a subscribable site but it might have the data for you that you seek. You now have options if you see data that exists for you. Perhaps you can subscribe to the partner site for “free” for 7 days. You can get your record that way for free. Look to see if a GS notice is part of the indexed record. You could order the film from FamilySearch and maybe a lower cost. If you know records are available for what you seek, you can at least choose what method is best for you to procure them.
- **Tip 12 – Sign In, No Tricks** – yes, you can search FamilySearch for free. However, there are certain features of FamilySearch that will require you to gain access to still for free. One of them is the Family Trees function of the site in which researchers upload their family history. Another part that I have seen is that you might be searching the site and find indexed records only to discover that to access the images for the records you will need to be registered with the site. The records and image access is still for free. Get the most from the site by simply registering yourself with them. It is painless and no hassle.
- **Tip 13 – Find, Search, and Source from Family Tree** – using Family Tree as part of FamilySearch is important. You may be looking for an ancestor for whom many other cousins not only relate to that individual but perhaps may have already found that person. If that person is already in the FamilySearch Family Tree you can save yourself a good amount of research by accessing what already exists. It should be documented with sources and citations and may have an even larger family tree of other family members to tap into to bridge the gap between what you have researched and what connects to you in the Family Tree. You may even see documents that have been uploaded or you can upload documents you have for an individual that no one else has yet discovered.
- **Tip 14 – Give Back, Be An Indexer** – how do all of those records magically appear in FamilySearch? They appear because of the hard work of volunteers who look at images of original records and transcribe them into text for uploading. All of this is done under the

guidance of FamilySearch with detailed instructions as to how the process should be done for any file being transcribed. The index can then link to an actual image. But if the data is not indexed you cannot search it with a simple surname search. **As an indexer, you can select the project of interest to you to index.** Maybe you can read another language. Maybe you have knowledge of a certain ethnicity and understand their records.

- **Tip 15 – Give Feedback** – using the data is fine. **Don't be afraid to share your opinions on something that is not right or could actually be done better.** FamilySearch encourages feedback. Take the time to give it to them if you are happy with the process and the records or even if you are not. **Look at the very bottom of the FamilySearch homepage for "Feedback" to do so. If you have a problem, look for the "Get Help" link at the top of the page.**

I thought this article was fantastic. I would recommend making a personal copy of this article to keep by your computer for reference in the future. The more you know about FamilySearch the better a researcher you will become and the less frustrated you will become in your search efforts.

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Handout #10 – “50 TOP WEBSITES FOR 2015”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the February/March 2015, Volume 9, Number 6 issue of Internet Genealogy.

A good article that I believe appears annually is one titled “50 Top Websites for 2015”. I thought I would just capsule the websites mentioned in this article by Tony Bandy. If you look at the journal article, the author provides a capsule summary description of information about the site. I would recommend you take a look at the article to capture the summary information. I was simply unable to capture such a large quantity of data. I at least wanted to make the websites available for you to explore.

The author has identified the websites according to the following categories:

- Library/State Resources
- Archives and Other Organizations
- Governmental Sites
- Commercial Sites
- Personal/Blogs/Other

You will have plenty of links to click on just to check out what these top 50 are all about. Enjoy clicking away!

Here is the list of sites from the article that have been categorized under a variety of subjects:

Library/State Resources

Dig DC (from the public library of the District of Columbia) @
<http://digdc.dclibrary.org/cdm/>

Digital Library of Georgia @
<http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/>

Digital Public Library of America @
<http://dp.la>

Duke Universities Libraries Digital Collection @
<http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/>

Early Canadiana Online @
<http://eco.canadiana.ca>

Harvard University Library: Immigration to the United States 1789-1930 @

<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/immigration>

HathiTrust @

<http://hathitrust.org>

New York Public Library Digital Collection @

<http://digitalcollections.nypl.org>

Newberry Library @

<http://newberry.org>

North Carolina Exploring Cultural Heritage Online @

<http://ncecho.org>

Archives and Other Organizations

Internet Archive @

<http://archive.org>

Arizona Archives Online @

<http://azarchivesonline.org/xtf/search>

BBC Genome Project @

<http://genome.ch.bbc.co.uk>

British Pathe @

<http://britishpathe.com>

CBC Digital Archives (Canada) @

<http://cbc.ca/archives/>

Connecticut History Illustrated @

<http://connecticuthistoryillustrated.org>

Europeana @

<http://europeana.eu>

Online Archive of California @

<http://oac.cdlib.org>

Peels Prairie Provinces @

<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca>

The Portal to Texas History @

<http://texashistory.unt.edu>

Governmental Sites

British Library-India Office: Family History Search @

<http://indiafamily.bl.uk/UI/>

Historic American Buildings Survey and
Historic American Engineering Record @

<http://loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/>

Library of Congress Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Collection @
<http://loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/>

Library of Congress @
<http://loc.gov>

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

National Park Service: Soldiers and Sailors Database @
<http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>

Trove (Australian) @
<http://trove.nla.gov.au>

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum @
<http://ushmm.org>

USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer @
<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs>

United States National Archives @
www.archives.gov

Commercial Sites

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

Cyndi's List @
www.cyndislist.com

Flickr (Photos) @
www.flickr.com

Fold3 @
www.fold3.com

Google News Newspaper Archive @
<http://news.google.com/newspapers>

Illustrated First World War @
<http://illustratedfirstworldwar.com>

MyHeritage @
<http://myheritage.com>

Pinterest @
www.pinterest.com

Place My Past @

<http://placemypast.com>

Twitter @
www.twitter.com

Personal/Blogs/Other

ArchiveGrid @
<http://archivegrid.org>

Bomb Sight Project @
<http://bombsight.org>

BillionGraves @
<http://billiongraves.com>

Cook County Cemetery @
<http://cookcountycemetery.com>

Facebook @
<http://facebook.com>

Geneabloggers @
<http://geneabloggers.com>

Pan Am Historical Foundation @
<http://panam.org>

Practical Archivist @
<http://practicalarchivist.com/>

Tumblr @
www.tumblr.com

Yesterland @
<http://yesterland.com>

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