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May 12, 2015

May 12, 2015 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our May 12, 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.

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) IN SEPTEMBER 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 on a date to be determined in September 2015. The program for the morning is titled **"To Be Determined"**. The speaker for the morning will be **To Be Determined**.

THE SOCIETY WILL NOT BE MEETING DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2015. THEY WILL RE-GATHER AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER 2015. I WILL PROVIDE UPDATES ABOUT THE PROGRAM IN SEPTEMBER AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

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 MAY 20, 2015

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, May 20, 2015. The program scheduled for that evening is **"Marriage Records: How To Write Your Love Story"**. The speaker for the program will be **Cynthia M. De Bock**.

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 MAY 16, 2015 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, May 16, 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 **"Researching at Appomattox Courthouse: Genealogy Through the Lens of the Civil War"**. The speaker will be **Dr. Daniel Hubbard.**

Civil War era records aren't just about soldiers and sailors. Before, during and after the war, a wealth of different types of unusual records were produced that speak of that time and tell the story of a whole generation. Join us as Dan takes us through the records left from this defining period in American history.

You may visit the organization web page at:

www.CAGGNI.org

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

We do our best here to try to be sure that information we convey about programs is accurate. However, sometimes we are unable to convey changes unless we are made aware of those changes.

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Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON JUNE 9, 2015

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, June 9, 2015.

We will have another "break-out" session for our gathering on June 9, 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 June 9, 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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Handout #6 – DID YOU FIND THE CORRECT ANCESTOR? MANY PEOPLE DID NOT AS SHOWN BY NUMEROUS PUBLISHED ARTICLES ABOUT HILLARY CLINTON'S FAMILY TREE

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated April 6, 2015.

Megan Smolenyak has published an article that I would suggest should be required reading for all genealogists. She discovered that most of the published reports of Hillary Clinton's ancestry have (at least) 25% of their information wrong. It seems that two women with the same name were born in the same area within a short time of each other. Guess which one most writers claim was Hillary's grandmother? Yes, the wrong one.

You can read Megan's article at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/megan-smolenyak-smolenyak/hillary-clinton-family-tr_b_7009986.html.

Ok, so what's in your family tree? Is your information 100% correct?

I speak from experience. I well remember the day that I "lost" about 100 ancestors. See my earlier article at http://blog.eogn.com/2014/05/08/barking-up-the-wrong-tree/.

It could happen to you.

NOTE: If you are the author of a previously-published article about Hillary Clinton's ancestry, you **REALLY** need to read Megan's article at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/megan-smolenyak-smolenyak/hillary-clinton-family-tr_b_7009986.html!

Comments by Tony Kierna

Yes, the article above starts us down the long political election road when the family histories of major candidates for President like Hillary Clinton become visible. There will be plenty more of these family histories to surface over the next year as more and more candidates enter the Presidential race.

The lesson to be learned here is to use the best documented evidence you can discover to note that an ancestor of yours is really an ancestor of yours. And if you link yourself to an incorrect ancestor, all of what you discover after that ancestor is incorrect. Maybe the stories of these "incorrect" ancestors are so amazing that you don't mind hitchin' your wagon to this unconnected family!! But it is not your ancestral family!

I actually also personally discovered who I thought was an ancestor in my wife's lineage. Everything seemed to match and make sense. I was getting excited because it looked like this "discovered" ancestor would get my wife's lineage back to connections with the Revolutionary War. Who wouldn't like those connections!

The more I pursued this "ancestor" the less that the discoveries made sense in comparison to other "facts" I had. Ultimately, a gut feeling hits you that something is awry. Time to take a pause and go back to square one and revisit all that you had that stated you down what may turn out to be an incorrect path.

In my particular case I was working from images of Soundex cards for a William A. BALCOM. The name matched, the middle initial matched, the birth year matched and so I ran with this ancestor. Unfortunately, after re-visiting my initial research I made the discovery that in fact I had uncovered another Soundex image for another William A. BALCOM who also had the same birth year as my initial William A. BALCOM! And I picked the wrong William A. BALCOM that started me further down the wrong path.

In our world of research today we are even more tempted to make our discoveries with online family trees and simply copy and use what is there to bring an ancestor into our tree where we think it connects. YIKES! Do we even know that what we are using from someone else's online tree is correct?? Not really, because we are thinking it is correct. If that tree has documented sources and citations we can follow that paper trail to determine if the ancestor is in fact our ancestor. But when there are no documents or citations, we just want this ancestor to be our ancestor and we move them in to our family tree trusting everything.

Big mistake!

I guess we can always fall back to another political slogan that states "Trust but verify". You need to prove via documents and sources that your ancestor is your ancestor to the best degree you can. If in doubt, don't take the easy path and connect that ancestor to you.

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Handout #7 – ANCESTRY.COM LAUNCHES ANCESTRY ACADEMY OF EDUCATIONAL VIDEO COURSES FOR FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCHERS

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated April 23, 2015.

The following announcement was written by the folks at Ancestry:

New resource will feature high-quality video courses spanning a variety of family history topics; Expert guidance to help experts and novices alike

(PROVO, Utah) – April 22, 2015 – Ancestry, the world's leading family history service, has launched Ancestry Academy, a new educational resource that offers high-quality video instruction from family history and genealogy experts. Covering a wide range of topics of interest in family history research, including Native American ancestry, online US census research, and DNA testing, this new educational content will help anyone, no matter their knowledge, better research and understand their family's unique history.

"Whether you are just beginning your family history research or an expert genealogist, nearly anyone can learn something new from the terrific lineup of expert instructors featured on Ancestry Academy," said Laura Prescott, Director of Ancestry Academy. "Our goal is to deliver the best online video instruction library of family history courses to as many people as possible to provide an educational and rewarding experience while researching their family history."

Ancestry Academy courses are divided into smaller lessons enabling self-paced learning, and an easy to use navigation helps members identify topics within a course simply. There is also an opportunity to evaluate your proficiency on a subject through optional tests available after completion of a course.

"Ancestry Academy is a natural next step in our effort to provide the best in education and resources for people interested in researching their family history," said Brian Hansen, Vice President of Emerging Businesses at Ancestry. "This new resource, combined with the Ancestry Learning Center and other educational content on Ancestry.com, will provide quality family history education to help every person discover, preserve and share their family history."

While premium courses will help educate on some of the more popular how-to conversations in family history research, other courses on Ancestry products and websites will also be available free of charge for anyone with a registered account to Ancestry.com. Currently, there are 15 courses available on Ancestry Academy, with plans for new courses to be added each month on an ongoing basis. Unlimited access

to all Ancestry Academy courses is available for $11.99 a month, $99.99 a year, or as part of the Ancestry World Explorer Plus subscription.

To learn more about Ancestry Academy, visit www.ancestryacademy.com.

Comments by Tony Kierna

And now Ancestry.com enters the world of online genealogy courses! So I now have one more resource to tap into if I want to watch some genealogy teaching videos on a myriad of genealogy subjects.

I highly recommend viewing the Ancestry Academy introductory video via the link above. You will find a 7 minute video that is well put together. It highlights what the Academy is all about and how you would go about signing in to it and using it.

I am a subscriber to Ancestry.com with a subscription to full access of their data. I logged myself into Ancestry.com and saw on the first page a link to Ancestry Academy. I went in to the Academy, reviewed the courses offered and selected the "free" one for Family Tree Maker. When I clicked on one of the videos for the course, it opened up and I was able to see that video and all of them associated with the course. The course is actually broken down into smaller segments that you can select to view. Once finished with that one, the next subtopic automatically starts. It looks like most complete courses take about 1 hour. You can even find an "optional" test to take to see how well you did in absorbing the material.

*So, this means that if you are already a "World" subscriber to Ancestry.com, you will have access to the "free" courses in Ancestry Academy? When I tried to access the lessons in a course that was not indicated as "free", I was **NOT** able to access the lessons. A screen presented me with an invitation to upgrade to gain access to the Academy. The message was "This course is only available with an Ancestry Academy subscription". Clicking on the upgrade, you will be presented with signing up at the $11.99 per month rate for access to all courses, $99.00 for an annual fee giving you access to all courses and finally $199 for gaining access to Ancestry World Explorer Plus for 6 months giving you access to all the records of Ancestry, Newspapers.com and Fold3.*

I thought I would gain access to the Academy with my current subscription. I am unable to gain this access because I do not have an additional subscription to Newspapers.com and Fold3. That is the $199 fee noted. For any of you that have the additional subscriptions in addition to World Access, perhaps you will gain access to all of the Academy courses.

Regardless of full access, I can at least take advantage of the "free" classes with my current subscription. But it also appears that anyone accessing the Academy can view the courses that are noted as free even if you do not have a subscription to Ancestry.com. So free is free to all whether you subscribe to Ancestry.com or not.

Yes, you can take advantage of "free" items that are there but ultimately you will need to decide if upgrading to the Ancestry Academy to gain access to all of the courses is worth your while. This is no different than so many other products that

offer "basic" services for free with a "premium" product available giving you so much more.

The "free" course I looked at looked very polished and very well presented. The instructors are tops in genealogy and know their material plus seem to have the ability to have a good camera presence to convey the lesson to viewers.

Check out the Ancestry Academy for yourself. I think you will at least enjoy the "free" material. Upgrading to full access is your call.

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Handout #8 – RELEASE 11 OF REUNION MACINTOSH LINEAGE PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated April 21, 2015.

A major update for **Reunion** is now available. Leister Productions has released Reunion version 11 for Macintosh and also ReunionTouch for iPad/iPhone. Reunion 11 includes the following changes:

- Syncing with mobile devices has been completely revamped in Reunion 11. No more need to manually sync changes. Working via Dropbox, everything synchs immediately.
- New Islands Sidebar lets you locate "islands" in your family file. Islands are groups of people linked to each other, but not linked to people in other islands.
- Visual clue for family notes, pictures and events appears in the marriage fields in the family view.
- Relationships are now identified "on-the-fly." As you add, delete, link, or unlink people in your family file, their relationship to the current source person appears instantly. No need to re-calculate relationships for the same source person.
- Thumbnails window for browsing images linked to people, families, and sources. Makes it easy to see all pictures in one place.
- Book creator automatically generate a PDF book, complete with page-number indexes of people and places. Includes source documentation, a multimedia browser, surnames, table of contents, multiple column content with text wrapping around images, custom headers and footers, cover pages, graphics, and more.

And much more. The full list of changes may be found at

http://www.leisterpro.com/doc/version11/newfeatures/newfeatures.php.

Reunion 11 requires Mac OS X version 10.6 or newer. The program costs $99 although anyone using an earlier registered version of Reunion may upgrade for $49.95. Shipping and handling are not included in those prices.

ReunionTouch is a single, universal app for iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch and is designed to complement Reunion for Mac. To use ReunionTouch on your mobile device, you'll need to have Reunion 11 installed on your Mac. ReunionTouch replaces the previous mobile apps "Reunion for iPad" and "Reunion for iPhone" and includes many new features. Details may be found at http://www.leisterpro.com/reuniontouch.

ReunionTouch is available now on the iPhone and iPad App Stores for $7.99.

Comments by Tony Kierna

This is a big event for Apple product users that use Reunion lineage software! It simply does not happen that often from the developers of Reunion at LeisterPro.com. Where other lineage software developers often create new versions of their product annually, Reunion has been a product that infrequently sees upgrades from the developers. It can be 3 to 4 years in-between releases! Version 10 of Reunion was made available in May 2012, and has been the most current version for 3 years since Version 11 just replaced it. I know this because I use Reunion at home on my iMac. And it personally irritates me when I become aware that other lineage products, Mac or Windows, are updated annually with some nice bells and whistles.

Reunion is a great software product that sports a very hefty price in comparison to other lineage programs be they Macintosh or Windows versions. But I will say that if you ever use it you will truly appreciate the powerhouse of a lineage program it is for Apple product users who have an iMac. If you become an initial purchaser it will cost you $99. From then on if you have registered the purchase or are using a previously purchased program that you did not register, you can usually pick up an upgraded product for about half off full purchase price for about $49. I did this for myself in September of 2014 when I upgraded my iMac's Reunion program to version 10 at the time. Even then, I was waiting and waiting thinking Version 11 might come out soon. It did now 7 months after I had waited too long already for an update!

In addition to the rich, full-bodied lineage program, Reunion also makes available for purchase its mobile and iPad app that allow users to have full access to their data on their iPhones or iPads.

As I mentioned above, when Reunion is updated to a new version, the updates often make the new product spectacular even if long in wait time for the upgrade. So while you may have to wait for updates for a long time, when they arrive you want to immediately upgrade to the new version. I can't wait to get this new version for my home iMac!

The list of upgrades above is large but it does not compare to the full list that you can see from the developer's website at www.leisterpro.com.

One of the biggest new additions in Version 11 appears to be the ability to create a genealogy book that uses all of your entered data contained in your Reunion program. Stories, facts, media, sources and citations, index of names and places and much more is now available to create a book in Version 11.

If you are a long-standing user of Reunion waiting for a new version then your ship has finally come in. If you are a genealogy researcher that has an iMac but does not have Reunion, now may be the time to jump on the Reunion bandwagon. It is simply that good of a program that is made available only to Mac users. LeisterPro does not create a Windows version of this powerhouse program. I have been a Mac user for all of my genealogy researching and have been with the Reunion product for all of that time. I have tried and used other lineage programs in the Windows world as part of my job at the library, but I always feel so good to get home and use Reunion over all of the other products.

Check out the LeisterPro website and all of the promotional and informative information and videos they have about this newly released product.

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The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the March/April 2015, Volume 1, Number 1 issue of Your Genealogy Today (formerly known as Family Chronicle).

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I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled "Stuck in a Genealogy Rut? Recharge Your Research!". The author of the article is Lisa A. Alzo.

It happens to all of us as genealogy researchers. We might start out with a bang and the least little amount of our efforts generates lots of great results. But over time all of the "easy" pickings start disappearing. Then we have to start working harder and harder to get fewer and fewer results! Some of us at that point just might call it quits and say their genealogy research is over.

The author is suggesting we consider three "E"-asy steps to break through our genealogy rut. The three "E"-asy steps are:

- Evaluate
- Estimate
- Execute

EVALUATE

When it a rut it is not a good thing to keep doing the same thing over and over. Perhaps you have just been doing online searching within one and only provider's databases. Now is the time to reach out and try some new resources.

Now is also the time to take a step back and evaluate what you have already gathered. You have possibly discovered some information on one ancestor that can help you with another. You just did not realize the piece of information for one is helpful to another.

If you initially gathered information from relatives, now is the time to revisit that. If you captured oral histories from relatives, perhaps now is the time to revisit those recordings. You may know something more now that can lead you to make connections to the oral history facts you have but have not spent further time reviewing.

Have you conducted "reasonably exhaustive searches"? Check out what this is all about at the Board for Certification of Genealogists at http://bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html.

Have you just been going to Google, Ancestry.com and FamilySearch entering in the same search terms over and over? Now is the time to **_STOP_** searching these and instead spend some time looking at the Help section, FAQ section, About section and any other resource tool provided by these sites so you can actually better

understand what their databases are all about and what are the search methodologies they offer. Each may not be the same for each other's service.

Learn to search better. Learn if they have Wild Card searches. Take advantage of search templates and enter in many pieces of information to search for your ancestor. See what different results you obtain when you try different combinations of search terms. If you only enter search terms at the very beginning of the home page of these sites you will be guaranteed to have a harder time finding your ancestors. New search techniques are critical to learn.

Are you using Social Media sites like FaceBook, Twitter and any others? If not, maybe now is the time to tap into these resources for genealogical help and cousin connections.

ESTIMATE

Establish your goals and estimate your timeline to complete the goal. Have short term and long term goals. Don't just establish a goal of "discovering the village of origin" of an ancestor. Rather, establish goals of smaller scale that will get you to the larger goal. Discover your ancestor's ancestral home by tracking backwards from a more current timeframe step by step. These smaller steps may uncover the piece of information you will need to make the leap to the ancestral village.

Manage your time. Consider using Apps that can help you with this. Take a look at some organizational apps at http://yourgenealogytoday.com/apps.htm.

Consider using research logs or plans so you know where your time is going or not going. These logs are great places to document your efforts so you don't waste future time by repeating the same unsuccessful effort again.

EXECUTE

Learn about new records and resources by attending genealogy conferences and institutes. Look for a list of these events at www.conferencekeeper.net.

Take advantage of online webinars that are free to improve and broaden your research skills. You can do all of this from home. Look to see what is coming up at www.geneawebinars.com and also at http://hackgenealogy.com.

Upload your family tree to more than one website. Maybe you have a subscription to Ancestry.com and have taken advantage of the ability to upload your family tree. Don't just stop there. There are many other sites that you can upload your data. For some you must be subscribed. For other sites you just need to register. Check out the following locations:

- FindMyPast @ www.findmypast.com
- MyHeritage @ www.myheritage.com
- WikiTree @ www.wikitree.com

Get yourself out there onto Social Media. Write a blog. Sign up for FaceBook, Twitter, Pinterest and get yourself out there to be discovered.

5/4/2015

Find out more tips about getting out of a genealogy rut that author was involved in providing tips. The program was called "Get Your Genealogy Groove Back Boot Camp. The program was put together with Thomas MacEntee. It is available for purchase. You can find it at http://hackgenealogy.com/features/store.

You might even want to consider a "do-over" on your research. Thomas MacEntee launched The Genealogy Do-Over program in January 2015. He has established 13 mileposts that can guide to starting all over allowing you to start with a clean slate following correct practices. This can be considered a radical approach but if you are stuck you might want to consider this approach.

If you are stuck and not moving forward in your research, consider putting into the play the above three "E"-asy steps, Evaluate, Estimate and Execute.

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Handout #10 – "GO PAPERLESS"

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the March/April 2015, Volume 1, Number 1 issue of Your Genealogy Today.

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Another good article in this issue is one titled "Go Paperless". The author of this article is Carol Richey.

Is going paperless a dream of yours as you see yourself surrounded by mounds of genealogy papers and file cabinets full of papers around you? Going paperless seems to have been around for eons, yet for the vast majority of us, we still have plenty of paper, in fact, probably more paper than we could have imagined!

Maybe the tips in this article will sink in and allow us to create a plan to allow us to migrate to digital rather than paper.

The author provided these 5 tips to consider for us to make it happen:

- **Recognize the Benefits of Going Paperless –** first you have to overcome your affinity for paper. Going paperless is both eco-friendly and cost effective for you. Digital data means you can access it electronically from anywhere e.g. your smartphone, your laptop, your iPad, DropBox etc. as long as you can access the Internet. Using and accessing your digital data simply protects the original from any further harm and deterioration as long as you are preserving it correctly. You do not have to look at this as "all or nothing" but rather look at this developing less reliance on paper.

- **Create a Plan of Action –** evaluate your actual situation and plan ahead to transition. What items should be kept in both formats? Your primary source documents and your photos. Secondary sources such as letters and notes can be easily shifted to 100% digital. If your current paper filing system is working for you, adopt the same process for your digital data. The key is consistency throughout on your methodology. Are you going to use a scanner or a digital device like a phone to scan your paper? What digital formats will you use? How will you archive your digital data?

- **Make a Decision to go Paperless Whenever Possible –** do not print your e-mails. Rather organize them electronically within your e-mail product. Don't print up web pages. Consider saving them as PDF files using the following:
    - **Web2PDF @ www.**web2pdfconvert.com
    - **Evernote's Web Clipper @ http://**evernote.com/webclipper
    - **Pocketr @ http://**getpocket.com

    Consider purchasing e-books and e-magazines so you eliminate paper

Immediately. Many of the books you might be interested in may be Available electronically.

- **Archive your Current Paper Materials —** begin small. <mark>Start with a folder or a binder of paper material. Divide the papers into 3 categories such as archive, scan and throw away and recycle for all else that is not needed.</mark>   Store your original paper properly using the following Library of Congress guide at www.loc.gov/preservation/family. <mark>Photos should be scanned at a high resolution. Text documents can be scanned at a much lower resolution</mark>. For long term storage of photos, scan and save as a TIFF format. Photo scanning help can be found at the Library of Congress at www.digitalpreservation.gov/personalarchiving/index.html.

- **Maintain and Protect Your Data —** <mark>a major drawback of going paperless is the risk of data loss.</mark> Hardware failure, human error, software corruption and natural disasters could all happen. <mark>You can safeguard your digital data by making backups of the electronic data. It is important that you make 3 copies of your data, keep the backups on at least two different types of media format (hard drive, flashdrive etc.) and that you store at least one copy of all of your data offsite out of your home (perfect way to share material among cousins for safekeeping).</mark> Plan on migrating your backup process to new media formats as they occur in the future. Plan on providing offsite copies as they are updated. Don't just give your cousin data as of one day only. If you update over the years, give them an updated copy.

Are you still staring at your mounds of paper? Try some of the above tips to see if you can shrink those mounds down and then change your habits to see if you want to commit to a new strategy going forward to stop adding to your paper piles.

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