



## HANDOUTS TABLE OF CONTENTS September 8, 2015

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## September 8, 2015 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our September 8, 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 OCTOBER 3, 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, October 3, 2015. The program for the morning is titled "Cemetery Sleuthing". The speaker for the morning will be **Kathy Kult**.

Have you ever been "cemetery sleuthing?" Come along with Kathy as she shares tips for searching for your departed ancestors in cemeteries and effectively recording what you find. Find out what to take in your "cemetery toolkit" and learn all about cemetery etiquette and safety. Kathy will share information for when the best time is to capture gravestone photos, what to do (and not do) for those hard-to-photograph markers, and several ways to share what you find.

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 SEPTEMBER 16, 2015**

Please note that there will be no meetings of the DuPage County Genealogical Society during the months of June, July and August 2015. Meetings will resume again on Wednesday evening, September 16, 2015.

Please note that meetings that will take place for the society will occur between September 2015 through May 2016. **The September 2015 program will occur at the DuPage County Historical Museum located at 102 E. Wesley Street in Wheaton, IL.** The October 2015 through May 2016 programs are once again taking place at the Wheaton Public Library in the Lower Level. The address of the library is 225 N. Cross St. in Wheaton, IL. Please note the times for refreshments and the program. Refreshments are offered at 6:30 PM. The meeting will start at 7 PM and last till no longer than 8:30 PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, September 16, 2015. The program scheduled for that evening is **"The Eastland Disaster: An Unparalleled Disaster"**. The speaker for the program will be **The Eastland Historical Society**.

You may visit the society's web page at:

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

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

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

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 SEPTEMBER 19, 2015 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY IN SCHAUMBURG, IL**

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, September 19, 2015 at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 130 S. Roselle Road, Schaumburg, IL starting at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"Photoshop and Document Restoration with Adobe Photoshop"**. The speaker will be **Eric Basir**.

Watch while Eric demonstrates efficient techniques for restoring various types of documents. This includes newsprint, certificates, photo copied records and others. Audience members are encouraged to bring documents for this demonstration.

Eric Basir owns a photo retouching studio in Evanston, IL. He has served the genealogical community since 2002 as a teacher and author of three books and multiple videos about digital photo preservation and restoration.

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 OCTOBER 13, 2015**

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, October 13, 2015.

The topic for this program is titled "Sound Research Practices: Sources and Citations". The presenter for this program is Ginger Frere.

If you're a beginning genealogist or have ever scratched your head trying to identify a document in your old research files, this session is for you. Learn the basics of evaluating a document and the information it contains. Find out how to cite sources appropriately. Resources to guide you in becoming a better genealogist will also be discussed.

A life-long Chicagoan, Ginger Frere MBA, MLIS, has been involved in family history for over 20 years. She has an extensive technical and training background with years of experience introducing people to technology.

In addition to working with private clients, speaking and teaching seminars, Ginger is a reference librarian in the Genealogy and Local History Section at the Newberry Library in Chicago, where her responsibilities include providing reference services and working on digital projects. She is co-director of ChicagoAncestors.org, a free website for finding and sharing historical information about Chicago.

Ginger has attended the National Institute on Genealogical Research (NIGR) as well as the Samford Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) and the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh.

She is a member of the Chicago Genealogical Society, the Illinois Genealogical Society, the National Genealogical Society and the Association of Professional Genealogists.

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.

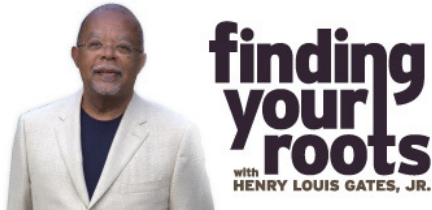
You can also visit the Genealogy Blog of the library that is authored by Tony Kierna. Visit the blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com> for all things related to genealogy and the genealogy programs at the Schaumburg Township District Library.

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## Handout #6 – “FINDING YOUR ROOTS” WILL RETURN FOR SEASON 3 ON PBS

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



“Finding Your Roots” will return for season three, but whether the celebrity genealogy series that buried an uncomfortable fact about Ben Affleck’s ancestor continues after that remains in doubt, PBS’ chief executive PBS President and CEO Paula Kerger said.

PBS conducted a “very thorough investigation” and is working with the show’s producers to ensure that its content is accurate, according to Kerger. You can read my earlier article at <http://blog.eogn.com/2015/06/25/finding-your-roots-on-pbs-postponed/> for details.

PBS’ review found that co-producers violated standards by allowing improper influence on the show’s editorial process and failed to inform PBS or then-producing station WNET New York of Affleck’s efforts to affect the program’s content. Changes were made, including adding another researcher and an independent genealogist. Series host and executive producer Henry Louis Gates Jr. has issued an apology, saying he regretted forcing PBS to defend the integrity of its programming.

While the third season has been confirmed, the exact dates and times of broadcast have yet to be scheduled.

### **Comments by Tony Kierna**

At least you can feel comfortable that you will be able to see at least one more season of “Finding Your Roots” on PBS. It does appear that the integrity of the show has been “wounded” with the influence that was placed on the show by Ben Affleck to not reveal that there were “slaveholders” in his family history.

Check out the following website from NPR Radio that provides greater detail into what all transpired that has jeopardized the long time running of this family history show:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/06/25/417455657/after-ben-affleck-scandal-pbs-postpones-finding-your-roots>

For all of us doing family history research, it is inevitable that we may discover some un-pleasantries about our ancestors. Some of us may cringe over such discoveries, some of us may think what a “cool” family we had 200 years ago! Some of us may

want to document our findings precisely and share the information with our fellow cousin researchers. Some of us may make the discovery and keep the discovered information secret and held by us alone.

So to hear that Ben Affleck feared to have the discovery of slaveholding ancestors made public does not really make him different in those feelings than in the ones we discover ourselves in our research. It is difficult to acknowledge that an ancestor may have been a womanizer. It is difficult to acknowledge that an ancestor may have left one family to start another one. It is difficult to acknowledge that an ancestor may have been a deserter from the military. It is difficult to acknowledge that an ancestor may have been a murderer!

The facts are what they are yet how we handle them is the crucial part of the discovery. We are no different than Ben Affleck in that regard. Yet how the "Finding Your Roots" program works with its "stars" leaves no margin for omission of discovered "facts" no matter how painful they may be to the "star" to go public. But in this case, this was the first time that any star on the series had requested that the discovered information of his ancestors being slaveholders be withheld from the contents of the show.

It is amazing that any of this withholding of discoveries was ever discovered. It only came about because the information of "secret" emails was made known through a "hack" of Sony data through WikiLeaks! Had the hack and leak not occurred no one would have known any better that Ben Affleck had slaveholders in his ancestry!

Your sensitive discovery of family history matters will occur if you do research long enough. You may very well be in the same place as Ben Affleck. Take a look at the following Wall Street Journal article on this very topic to see how bad discoveries in your family history can be handled:

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424127887324734904578241822679163276>

Discovering troubling family history material can be a shock to your system. How you handle it, both for your own processing, as well as for that of your other cousins can be a challenge. Be sensitive. Be thoughtful. Consider the feelings of others to preserve the information accurately while keeping it off to the side. It is not easy to work with this kind of discovery.

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## Handout #7 – ONLINE PETITION TO SAVE “OLD” ANCESTRY.COM “CLASSIC” INTERFACE

*The following was found in Dick Eastman’s Online Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated August 11, 2015.*

An on-line petition has been started that is directed to Tim Sullivan, President and Chief Executive Officer of [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com). The petition pleads for the retention of the Classic/Old interface, at least as a permanent option for people who prefer it.

The online petition states (in part):



Save "OLD" Ancestry-com~"Classic"

Dear Tim Sullivan, President and Chief Executive Officer, CEO@ Ancestry.com:

We, the undersigned, hereby sign this petition to acknowledge that we, do not like the look, style, color, and format and prefer the use of Ancestry.com “Classic” versus NEW ancestry.

We the undersigned who have signed, liked or shared the following are NOT resistant to change. The recent change of Ancestry.com “Classic” to NEW ancestry is the worst change that ancestry.com has ever made to its website. HELP SAVE Ancestry~com “Classic”!

We have been informed that Ancestry.com “Classic” will soon be deleted for use by members. We are not pleased with NEW ancestry, and prefer using Ancestry.com “Classic” versus the NEW ancestry.

HELP SAVE Ancestry~com “Classic”

Changing the name on the ancestry website from “Classic” to “OLD” does not change anything.

DAMAGE CONTROL to stop the NEW COKE comparison does NOT change anything.

“OLD” or “NEW” Ancestry-com~“Classic” is the real genealogy research thing!

You can read the full petition and possibly sign it yourself at:

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/600/803/575/save-ancestrycom-classic>.

As of this afternoon (11-August-2015), 1,168 people have signed the petition.

### **Comments by Tony Kierna**

*Change is inevitable, whether it is about Ancestry.com or our day-to-day connections with life! Ancestry.com has been working on a new redesign of its website for some time now. The object is to make the site better for its users that will bring even more research power to its users. Any change has its opponents. Opposition just makes us hope that we will not have to learn something new even though what is being changed may be better for us in the long run.*

*Could Ancestry.com offer Ancestry.com "Classic" (the existing system) to its users to choose between that and the new system? Sure it could. Is that a wise choice? Maybe not unless Ancestry.com notes that it will not be supporting such a system in the future. Maybe future record formats may not fit well into the old system but will look fine in an updated new system. Do you want to select the "classic" system but not be able to see correctly formatted records? Probably not.*

*Maintaining two systems is not an effective way for a company to proceed. Resources that could be put forth to move systems forward might have to be used to fix things in a system that was not intended to continue in a "live" manner. Those resources could be used to even add more data to the site rather than be used on a system that is destined for the scrap heap. This is what life is.*

*I just don't agree that a new Ancestry.com can be as bad as is portrayed by those in opposition. If there is opposition to certain features not being carried over to the new system, then by all means argue that but to use such broad and general words as "The recent change of Ancestry.com "Classic" to NEW ancestry is the worst change that ancestry.com has ever made to its website". I don't even know where an Ancestry.com could evaluate such a statement as to being meaningful.*

*With my Apple smartphone updates are made to the operating system constantly, whether for the good and the bad as perceived by users. But for the most part users generally like new features that build off of previous features. Yes, even in the world of Apple OS systems previous features are discontinued and sometimes they work themselves back into a future update when raised voices are listened to.*

*Maybe Ancestry.com can make future changes to its new system that might re-establish "classic" functions removed in the "new" system. That is a big maybe. So for average users it is best to learn a new system and find the benefit in new and more powerful features and data. Like anything else, I might not know immediately how to use a new feature, but I will investigate it and learn how to use it because generally, the old system is not coming back!*

*Take a look at the petition and all the comments that were made. More importantly, take a look at the "beta" Ancestry.com and make your own opinions on what you see and how it works. Here is a link to a blog post in the Ancestry Blog that will give you lots of information on the "new" Ancestry"*

[http://help.ancestry.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/9141/](http://help.ancestry.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/9141/)

*Give it a try. Learn what's there and then decide if keeping the "classic" Ancestry.com is a request.*

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## Handout #8 – 82,000 FAMILYSEARCH VOLUNTEERS “FUEL THE FIND” FOR PEOPLE WORLDWIDE

*The following was found in Dick Eastman’s Online Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated July 1, 2015.*

The following announcement was written by the folks at FamilySearch:



SALT LAKE CITY UTAH—A total of 82,039 volunteers helped to “Fuel the Find” during FamilySearch’s Worldwide Indexing Event, held August 7-14, 2015. Though short of the goal of 100,000 participants, the effort produced a number of remarkable achievements, among them an 89% increase in non-English language indexing activity. Volunteers produced more than 12.2 million indexed (transcribed) and 2.3 million arbitrated (reviewed) records during the weekly event (See infographic). As with all records indexed by FamilySearch indexing volunteers, those indexed during the global event will be made freely searchable at [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org).

For the Worldwide Indexing Event, FamilySearch sought volunteers who could decipher records recorded in a variety of languages, with a focus on French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. Volunteers from all over the world exceeded expectations by processing over 2,183,212 non-English records including 1,380,684 in Spanish, 147,568 in Portuguese, 226,734 in French, and 116,835 in Italian.

“We are thrilled with the number of people who are fluent in a non-English language who accepted the challenge to index records in that language,” said Courtney Connolly, FamilySearch digital marketing manager. “If volunteers will keep up this rate of non-English indexing and arbitration, we’ll soon see people everywhere experiencing the same success in finding their ancestors that English-language researchers enjoy.”

The #FueltheFind name is derived from the way indexing helps people find family information in collections of searchable historical records online. Indexed records are like the fuel that gives genealogical search engines like [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) the power to connect people to their missing ancestors. Committed FamilySearch volunteers online know that every name they index adds another drop of precious fuel that can help someone else discover the missing members of their family tree and learn their stories.

This year’s week-long event had an international focus. Most online indexing volunteers are native English speakers and lean toward indexing English language record collections. Currently [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) offers twenty times more searchable records in English than in all other languages combined. “There is a huge and growing need for English speakers who are fluent in a second language, and native speakers of non-English languages to learn how to index. Tens of thousands of new volunteers are needed to keep up with the opportunity to index the world’s records,” said Connolly.

FamilySearch heartily thanks all of the volunteers for their contributions and dedication and encourages anyone interested in participating to join the ongoing indexing initiative at [FamilySearch.org/Indexing](http://FamilySearch.org/Indexing).

#### ABOUT FAMILYSEARCH

FamilySearch International is the largest genealogy organization in the world. Millions of people use FamilySearch records, resources, and services to learn more about their family history. To help in this great pursuit, FamilySearch and its predecessors have been actively gathering, preserving, and sharing genealogical records worldwide for over 100 years. FamilySearch is a nonprofit organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Guests may access FamilySearch services and resources free online at FamilySearch.org or through over 4,600 family history centers in 132 countries, including the renowned Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

#### **Comments by Tony Kierna**

*FamilySearch just recently completed an indexing project during the week of August 7, 2015 to August 14, 2015. Their goal was to connect with 100,000 indexers who would focus on indexing non-English language records. While falling short of connecting with 100,000 indexers, the accomplishment of having 82,000 indexers work on this project sounds incredible to me. Just think of the size of that number.*

*For many of us a good part of our ancestral search might lead us to records in a foreign language. My Polish research takes me in that direction. And of course, wouldn't I like to see more indexed and imaged Polish Catholic Church records from Poland appear within the online data files at FamilySearch? Yes I would!*

*I have been an indexer with FamilySearch. I have not been very active of late. When I have indexed material I have gravitated to selecting English language data such as the US Census or World War I Draft Registration data. Although I would like access to more Polish Catholic Church records, it can be a challenge to select data to index in a language that you are not familiar with. A person who speaks Spanish or German or Polish may be a better fit to look at and index records from that language.*

*FamilySearch realizes this shortcoming and created this special week of Indexing geared to incentivize more indexers with foreign language skills to focus on data in a language other than English to index. During this week foreign language indexing was up 89% with about 12 million foreign language indexed records being created. The focus was on records in French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish (darn, no Polish!).*

*It is truly a gift when someone speaks and understands a language other than English. It is a person with that skill set that is so valuable in moving the indexing forward for these non-English languages. Plus, it is also those individuals living in a country where a particular foreign language exists that are valuable to help these records indexed simply because the records are in their language. They understand the intricacies and nuances of their own language which makes indexing these records not as difficult for them.*

*It would not surprise me to see an indexing event of this kind happen more in the future to focus on the need for non-English record indexing help. If you have a non-English language capability, take a look at the indexing projects available within FamilySearch to see if there is one there that is for non-English language that you understand.*

*Congratulations to FamilySearch for making this wonderful effort to encourage activities related to getting these foreign language records indexed for so many of us to use. I will keep my eyes open for any future announcements of such special activities in the future.*

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## Handout #9 – “KNOW YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND FIND YOUR ANCESTORS”

*The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the August/September 2015, Volume 10, Number 3 issue of Internet Genealogy.*

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I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “Know Your Historical Societies and Find Your Ancestors”. The author of the article is Amanda Epperson.

As stated by the author, an historical society is an institution that collects, preserves, and makes available historical documents and artifacts. Some of these societies have very focused goals related to a narrow topic such as New York Central Railroad. Some may focus on an entire state being the historical society of that state. Each society creates a mission statement which drives its goals and what it does. Knowing these mission statements is important for the researcher to know because it can make the research that much more productive for the researcher. The author notes that most of these societies do not collect material for their collections with the genealogist in mind. But that does not minimize their importance for the genealogist.

The author notes that you can easily find historical societies that are representative of an entire state. These could be societies like the Ohio Historical Society ([www.ohiohistory.org](http://www.ohiohistory.org)), the Virginia Historical Society ([www.vahistorical.org](http://www.vahistorical.org)), and the California Historical Society ([www.californiahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.californiahistoricalsociety.org)). These focus on their own state historical aspects. You may encounter a state historical society like the Massachusetts Historical Society that while having a state focus may actually have materials more relevant to the entire country. This may be due to it being one of the founding states of the country and having historical materials that equates to national interest.

These large size societies often have a very large presence on the Internet via their websites. Some of them may even have subcategories for genealogy on their site. Unfortunately, the genealogy sub-sites may not often be easy to find on these large sites. In fact, you may not even see the word “genealogy” identified for these sites. Look for links associated with “family history” or “local history” that may in fact have genealogical information within. Sometimes you still may not be able to find this by directly exploring the site. If so, just try a Google search using a phrase such as “genealogy at the X (fill in the blank) historical society”.

You may find regional historical societies such as the Chicago History Museum at [www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org). The Western Reserve Historical Society at [www.wrhs.org](http://www.wrhs.org) is another example of a regional society. One more is the Heinz History Center at [www.heinzhistorycenter.org](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org). These are not quite national in scope or fully statewide but have a more defined yet larger geographical range.

You may still discover small size historical societies that can still hold a treasure trove of information. They may have a web presence but it may not be as rich and full of information as the state organizations or the national organizations. These

societies run on small budgets with limited hours and volunteers instead of paid staff that maintains web sites.

The author also notes that you will encounter national religious historical societies. An example of this is the Presbyterian Historical Society (PCUSA) at [www.history.pcusa.org/resources/genealogy](http://www.history.pcusa.org/resources/genealogy). They often serve their members with religious materials that can fall right in line with genealogical research. The author also mentions The Historical Society of the United Methodist Church at [www.historicalocietyunitedmethodistchurch.org/genealogy](http://www.historicalocietyunitedmethodistchurch.org/genealogy). Consider the American Baptist Historical Society at <http://abhsarchives.org/for-researchers/genealogy/>.

If your research has been able to document a religious affiliation for an ancestor then you want to consider these religious historical societies as a resource to possibly obtain copies of religious records noted for your ancestors. This is especially true if your ancestor was a religious leader or official within that particular faith.

Many societies are formed on an ethnicity basis for historical record and artifact keeping. The author notes the Ukrainian Museum and Archives in Cleveland, Ohio at [www.umacleveland.org](http://www.umacleveland.org). They would appear to have a national focus but in fact may have very modest funding that does not help them support their national image.

Whenever you discover an historical society be sure to note its mission statement and its collection focus. The name of a society may seem like a fit for your own research but the details of its mission and collection may not match with your needs. Better to know early on rather than to get frustrated trying to get material from an organization that simply does not have it within their structure. If everything looks promising and good, work through online materials they may offer. Ultimately, if all of the initial research components look promising, it may be time to actually visit the location and see resources they may have that are able to be viewed only onsite at their location.

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## Handout #10 – “NATIONAL FOLKLORE COLLECTION OF IRELAND: SCHOOLS COLLECTION”

*The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the August/September 2015, Volume 10, Number 3 issue of Internet Genealogy.*

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I thought that another interesting article in this is one titled “National Folklore Collection of Ireland: Schools’ Collection”. The author of the article is Joe Grandinetti.

Back in the late 1930s in Ireland, the Irish Folklore Commission gave an assignment to schoolchildren. About 50,000 students among 5,000 primary schools were given the task of collecting and documenting local stories from their parents, grandparents and older community members. This was done in the days before television and computers as we know it today. Families actually sat around together and interacted. Stories were bountiful of current and past family history. Many of the stories went back deep in family history time.

Over an 18 month period these stories were collected from the students. It appears that part of the assignment was a handwriting exercise. Students had to not only capture the stories but write them down in their best handwriting. Topics that might have been captured were:

- Folklore
- My Home District
- Local Happenings
- Customs
- Proverbs
- Poems
- Superstitions
- Cures
- Food
- Place Names
- Landlords
- Graveyards
- Old Houses

The project collected 740,000 pages of information that are currently being digitized and indexed. The data is available free of charge with no registration required at:

[www.Duchas.ie](http://www.Duchas.ie) (Then click on “Schools’ Collection)

At the home page you can select to search by "People", "Places" and "Surnames". Take a look at these. The "Places" map is very detailed and shows that most of the data came from the West coast of Ireland in addition to pockets of data from Dublin and Waterford. You can click your cursor over a spot on the map to see what town it is and who the teacher was and what was captured.

You can look at a list of the counties for which data is being processed. It appears you can obtain information from County Dublin, Kildare, Kerry, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Waterford and Sligo. There is a goal to have a "significant" part of the data available online by the end of 2016.

The material is searchable by "place", "School", and "person". Make sure you click on "More Details" for the area to see the details of the names of individuals that have been identified. Click on the name and it will take you to the location in the writing where the name appears.

There is much to explore at the site both geographically and within the various categories of data you might find. I did find this fascinating to explore. The handwriting for the most part is absolutely beautiful and neat and more importantly, readable!!

In the big picture of data this data is small in quantity. However, I thought the project as expressed by the author of the article was so interesting you might ask yourself why this hasn't been done routinely in schools throughout the world and especially here at home in the US.

This was a fascinating article about a very fascinating kind of data! Definitely check out the site even if you are not researching Irish ancestry just to see what could be done as a school assignment.

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