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October 13, 2015 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our October 13, 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 NOVEMBER 7, 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, November 7, 2015. The program for the morning is titled **“Time Travel with Google Earth (Webinar)”**. The speaker for the morning will be **Lisa Louise Cooke**.

Get ready to experience old historic maps, genealogical records, images, and videos coming together to create stunning time travel experiences in the free Google Earth program. We'll incorporate automated changing boundaries, and uncover historic maps that are built right into Google Earth. Tell time travel stories that will truly excite your non-genealogist relatives! You've never seen anything like this class!

Lisa Louise Cook is the owner of Genealogy Gems, a genealogy and family history multi-media company. She is Producer and Host of the Genealogy Gems Podcast, the popular online genealogy audio show available at www.GenealogyGems.com, in iTunes, and through the Genealogy Gems app, and free toolbar.

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 OCTOBER 21, 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, October 21, 2015. The program scheduled for that evening is **“Navigating Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court”**. The speaker for the program will be **Raymond Johnson**.

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 OCTOBER 17, 2015 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY IN SCHAUMBURG, IL

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, October 17, 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 **"Lost Children: Vagrants, Delinquents, Half-Orphans, Dependents, Surrendered, Adopted"**. The speaker will be **Jeanne Larzalere Bloom**.

As the views of society toward children evolved, the types of records and where these records might be located changed.

Jeanne Larzalere Bloom is a Certified Genealogist specializing in Illinois problem solving and compilation, particularly Cook County.

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 NOVEMBER 10, 2015**

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

The topic for this program is titled "Stories of the Lost: Researching World War I and II Military Records". The presenter for this program is Jennifer Holik.

A continuation of "Finishing the Story," we will explore the records available to tell the stories of those who died in service. We will also discuss those who took care of our Soldier Dead, the Graves Registration Service men. Learn about their job and the reasons it took so long to have our soldiers repatriated and what happened to the personal effects during the course of recovery and repatriation.

Jennifer Holik is a genealogical research professional and the owner of Generations and co-founder of The In-Depth Genealogist. Jennifer has over twenty years of research and writing experience. She has authored articles for local and national genealogical publications; authored and published a set of kids' genealogy curriculum books in 2012; is an Expert Author for Archives.com; and writes for several blogs.

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 – PRIVACY ISSUES FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated September 7, 2015.

The [MyHeritage Blog](#) has published an article I wrote: *Privacy Issues for Family Historians*. It discusses some of the things genealogists need to be aware of before publishing their family trees online. As I wrote at the beginning of the article:

"Genealogists often face conflicting requirements. We want to publish our own family information online in hopes that others will see it and recognize connections to their own family. Those other genealogists then can contact us, and we can collaborate to expand the known family trees of each of us. The problem is that today's news is full of alarming articles about identity theft, fraud, and similar illegal acts. While some of the news articles describe real threats, others are published as "scare tactics" that magnify smaller issues to sound as if there are imminent dangers for all of us. Alarmist articles often strike unnecessary fear into the hearts of those who do not understand the difference between major and minor threats."

You can read the entire article at:

<http://blog.myheritage.com/2015/09/privacy-issues-for-family-historians/>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Many genealogists face a crisis with what to do with their research. Keeping it personal and private is one course of action. Unfortunately, that does not lead to sharing with other family members as well as not being able to discover other cousins that could add even more information to the family history you have already discovered.

You could share material in paper format, audio format, video format with others if you want your research to not only be known but also to be passed on to many of the younger cousins you will have discovered in your family history research.

But ultimately, family researchers need to consider opening up their research to make it available to many other cousins that are known and many others yet to be discovered by uploading the research online. This may be an easy decision for many genealogists. This decision may be a gut-wrenching decision for many other researchers as they deal with the fears of making the data so publicly available on the internet.

We live in a world that is so open with social media and details of everyone just so readily available at our fingertips. We hear story after story about how such uploaded information can come back to bite you and even worse, harm you.

The link above is well-worth visiting. It is an article written by the famous genealogist Dick Eastman. He expounds on what the fears are related to privacy that genealogists think about all of the time. Upload my material and gain further

connections with cousins you know and will discover. Upload and take a chance on how the data can be misused in ways that can harm you.

Genealogists often run into problems when material on living relatives is uploaded among all of the information on deceased individuals. Websites where such material is uploaded today even screen the pre-uploaded data for these "living" individuals using algorithms to determine if someone is "dead" or "alive". If determination is made someone is "alive", then details of that proposed uploaded person are masked so that no information is readily shown other than there may be a "living" person in a family tree. It is always best if you do not even attempt to upload living individuals. And if you do, get their permission to include them in your tree.

Uploading information on "deceased" individuals is the core of what genealogy should include. From Dick Eastman's article linked above, he says the following about the deceased and their "rights":

"First, dead people do not have a right of privacy. Almost all laws dealing with privacy are limited to living people. Information about deceased individuals generally is not restricted by legislation. Likewise, heirs have no right to claim retroactive privacy for their ancestors." So, if you stick to uploading information on the deceased, you should feel comfortable that you will not be violating any privacy issues or concerns. But, you could still have other family members upset with you that you uploaded details about that person that are not flattering or troubling. So you may be legally clear but you might cause internal family strife.

Take a look at the entire Dick Eastman Privacy article. It is well-written and gives great guidance to help you work through privacy concerns you need to acknowledge as part of your research.

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Handout #7 – 1906-1912: ELLIS ISLAND PORTRAITS

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated September 8, 2015.

Ellis Island in New York harbor processed more than 12 million immigrants before being closed in 1954. At the station's peak in 1907, more than one million immigrants passed through in a single year, with 3,000 to 5,000 entering every day, mostly from Europe and its periphery.



Augustus Francis Sherman was the chief registry clerk at Ellis Island, and an avid amateur photographer. He had special access to the immigrants who were temporarily detained while waiting on escorts, money or travel tickets. Sherman persuaded many of these immigrants to pose for his camera, encouraging them to put on their finest clothes or national dress. A collection of his photographs are now available online at <http://mashable.com/2015/09/07/ellis-island-portraits/>. A larger collection can be seen in person at the New York Public Library.

There is a very slight chance that you may find a picture of your ancestor in this collection. However, it may provide a glimpse of the clothes that immigrants from your ancestor's homeland may have worn.

Check out the photographs at <http://mashable.com/2015/09/07/ellis-island-portraits/>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

I will tell you that I am an easy mark for our ancestor's pictures that are associated with Ellis Island, the most popularly known port of immigration associated with our ancestors. But do not consider Ellis Island the ONLY port that our immigrants entered the United States. In fact, the port of New York, whether it was the Castle Garden processing center that was in existence prior to Ellis Island, or Ellis Island that served as a major processing center from 1892 until about 1924, only handled about 50% of the total of all immigration processing for our ancestors. Do not forget to consider the ports of Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Galveston or New Orleans as ports of entry for our ancestors. Records for these ports may not be as famous as those for New York, but your ancestor might have come in to one of these. My own ancestors came into the United States through New York as well as through Baltimore.

The Dick Eastman article above and the link will get you to a series of more "formally" posed pictures of those that entered the United States through Ellis Island in the 1906 to 1912 time period. So if you like to look at pictures of Ellis Island immigrants, this is a link to explore to see these photos. The photographer took great time and encouraged those willing to be photographed to look their best. They were encouraged to dress in the garb of their native country if they had such special clothes with them.

You won't find names of any of the individuals. You will find a note of their country of origin for you to see them in their fine original country clothing. Your chance of discovering a long-lost ancestor is probably worse than even the lottery chances.

If you are hooked on Ellis Island pictures, these are pictures that you have probably never seen before. They are portraits of our ancestors at their best. They were held up for various reasons at Ellis Island after their initial arrival. Your own ancestor might have looked as good if he was asked to pose for such a picture with his finest clothes. Use the picture to make a mental image of what your own ancestor could have looked like during this time of arrival at Ellis Island.

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Handout #8 – ANCESTRY LAUNCHES LARGEST ONLINE COLLECTION OF WILLS AND PROBATES IN THE UNITED STATES

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated September 2, 2015.

The following announcement was written by the folks at Ancestry.com.

More than 170 million documents from 1668-2005 now available exclusively on Ancestry; New collection provides a wealth of deeper stories about ancestors' lives



(PROVO, Utah) – September 2, 2015 – More than 170 million pages from the largest collection of wills and probate records in the United States is now available online exclusively on Ancestry. With searchable records included from all 50 states spread over 337 years (1668-2005), this unprecedented collection launches a new category of records for family history research never before available online at this scale the United States.

Until now, these records have only been available offline. Ancestry spent more than two years bringing this collection online, working with hundreds of different archives from individual state and local courts across the country and making a \$10M investment to license and digitize the records. The documents cover well over 100 million people, including the deceased as well as their family, friends and others involved in the probate process. Ancestry expects to continue to grow the collection, with additional records available over the next several years.

"Ancestry has worked hard over the past decade, to make available a variety of collections that can help the most seasoned family history expert and novices alike learn more about their ancestors," said Todd Godfrey, Vice President of Global Content. "Ancestry's vast collection of billions of unique historic records makes it the only place online that can give people such a comprehensive view into their family's unique history."

Today, state and federal census records are the most commonly searched collections in family history research, offering a variety of information that is important for building out your family tree. Wills however are one of the most desired types of records, as they can be a treasure trove of information that provides insight into your ancestors' lives, loves, land, and possessions.

"Wills can offer an incredible view into the lives of your ancestors, going beyond names and dates, and providing insight into their personality, character, achievements, relationships, and more," said Godfrey. "Reading these records you will find a deeper level of understanding about who your ancestors were, who they cared about, what they treasured, and how they lived."

There is something for everyone in the new U.S. Wills and Probate collection on Ancestry, whether you are an experienced family historian or new to the pursuit. Some examples of what can be found in the collection include:

- **Rich Stories** – A deeper level of understanding is possible when you learn about the more intricate details of your ancestors' lives through their eyes; details that can tell new or more compelling stories of their everyday existence, and perhaps, shed light on their character and personality, as well as important subtext that can reflect the type of lifestyle, education, and status an ancestor may have had through language or possessions.
- **New Discoveries** – Whether valuable heirlooms, sizable estates, or meager but treasured belongings to pass down, the riches of your ancestor's lives can be found in a will. Family research can be fun when you "follow the money" and see who wound up with what or even, to which charities or organizations a person's estate was entrusted.
- **Friends and Family Members** – Many additional names can be found in a will in addition to the deceased. Wills can reveal new family members you didn't know about, and identify new connections, and tell more about the relationships between people mentioned in the will. Intriguing controversies can be seen as you read about those close to them who were included in the will, and those who were cut out.

With a collection that begins with wills from the mid-17th century running through the early 21st, last wishes and estates of notable citizens that helped shape the nation over the past three hundred years can be found in this new collection of Wills and Probates, including past Presidents, businessmen, entrepreneurs, sports legends, famous entertainers, artists and writers, scientists, and much, much more.

To celebrate the launch of the new U.S. Wills and Probates collection on Ancestry, the collection along with all U.S. birth, marriage and death records, will be available to explore for FREE, September 2 (12pm MT) through September 7 (10pm MT).

Comments by Tony Kierna

Wills and Probates are often not the most sought after records for genealogists. Often when Vital Records are discovered that may be the end of the research effort of the genealogist. And even if a genealogist wanted to pursue these records, they often had to work much harder at making the effort to head over to a County Court House that generally contained this data. Many times such added effort is not expended and the Wills and Probate data on ancestors is left undiscovered.

This obstacle is beginning to change as some of the digitized data on these valuable records becomes available through Ancestry.com. Now there is more of a reason for the researcher to use this digitized data to see what might exist for their won ancestors that is now available online. Be aware, the data will be different county by county and state by state. Some may be massive. Some may be minimal. But it does look like you will be able to do surname searches and be linked to the Will and Probate data of an ancestor.

When searching this newly added, my suggestion to you would be to NOT do a general search at the main search box. Rather, highlight the "Search" Tab at the top of the page and let it open where you can see "Card Catalog". Select this instead and then in its search box enter in something like "Illinois Wills", "Wisconsin Wills" or the name of the state of interest to you. Then only search that particular database for your surnames of research. Your results will be much more manageable selecting in this manner.

Also, do not be surprised if you just see some basic administrative documents associated with Wills and Probates. I have been doing some searches for Illinois and have only discovered these one-page types of documents and not yet full Wills or Probates. I also did a search for Wisconsin Wills and did some random searches. Here I was able to see results that showed a larger variety of papers associated with wills but not necessarily a full will. So your results as to fullness of data based on state and county.

Now is the time for you to review data in your trees and apply those names to search this massive amount of wills and probate records that are within Ancestry.com. Much of what you see even as simple one page documents is "legalese". Be patient reading through the data and it may very well add a lot more information to your research on that particular person.

I would emphasize that it may be well worth your while to select a "wills and probate" database entry for a specific state and then do your searching just within that one database. Your results will be fewer and not comingled with other non-related data if you did a general search in the general search box for all databases.

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Handout #9 – “A GENEALOGIST’S APPROACH TO PRIVACY”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the July-September 2015, Volume 41, Number 3 issue of NGS Magazine.

I thought that an interesting article in this issue is one titled “A Genealogist’s Approach to Privacy”. The author of the article is Kathy Petlewski, MSLS.

We are living in an age when data about ourselves is everywhere and available to everyone for public information. Just think, prior to the Internet, which is only about 20 years old for the general public, you had to work hard to obtain information about people. Now, it is all available at your fingertips. Carry that data over to genealogical information, and you will see that family trees abound everywhere on the internet, especially those family trees that have been designated as “public” by the researcher that uploaded them.

Many of us cringe over how much data exists for each of us from public sources. And then we even cringe more when we realize that researchers like ourselves are uploading their research information that may include material about us and our children and grandchildren while we are still alive. So where does this leave you what to do with your research material? Upload it or not? The answer for many of us is both “yes” and “no”. Not a good answer!

The author notes that even before the internet the Federal government put limitations of data captured by them through the US Federal Censuses over the years. In 1952 a law was passed that denied access to any US Federal Census until 72 years had passed. This was done with the expectation that the privacy of an individual would remain intact assuming the individual would have died before their inclusion in a US Census would be made known. When the law was passed, average life expectancy was 65.8 years for men and 71.6 years for women. So a 72 year window of closure would have worked. Unfortunately, from a researcher’s point of view, it may only be a matter of time that the 72 year census withholding window for census data might at some point be increased to reflect the longer life expectancy we experience. Genealogists would not like that but the reality of longer life is what it is and privacy concerns are even more important today.

If we are going to upload our family trees researchers must be aware of the need to safeguard the rights of their living relatives that may very well be included in these family trees. Living individuals should not be included in these public trees and if for any reason that they are they must be masked to protect the privacy of these living individuals. In fact, if you are going to include living individuals even in a masked manner, you need to contact that individual and obtain their permission for you to include them in an uploaded family tree if even they are masked and made to look as unidentified!

The author does a great job of identifying the key websites for family trees can be uploaded. So even if you have done your due diligence in your own family trees and have protected the privacy of individuals, it is critical for you to know what the

"privacy levels" are for any site that you choose to upload the data. First of all, you should be able to choose between uploading a family tree as either "public" or "private". You control the choice, but if you choose public and then at some time change back to private be aware that during the time of it being public all of that data has been out on the internet. Changing back to private will not make the material previously made public disappear. If you upload as private you can still let your fellow family researchers have access to that data without it being discovered inadvertently in a public status.

Here are the privacy levels for the following sites:

- WikiTree.com – By default any child under the age of 13 in your family tree must be "unlisted". WikiTree also has a mechanism in place for disputes among family members as to how much data should be made public. For living person, the information must be removed immediately. For deceased nuclear family members, if another member requests it be removed, it is taken down. For more distant ancestors, their policy is "In general, err on the side of sensitivity, caution and courtesy."
- Ancestry.com – If a person that uploads family data has the family members as living, then that person is marked on the family tree uploaded as "Living". If the status as to death is unknown, Ancestry.com calculates to see if the birthdate is less than 100 years ago. If it is, that person is marked as "Living". Ancestry.com members who do not have permission to view living members in the tree will see it as "Private". In Ancestry.com you can mark the entire family tree as private and ask that potential relatives contact you via e-mail in order to gain permission to view the data.
- FamilySearch.org – Has very stringent guidelines for how living people are displayed. If you have included a living person in your tree, there will be a "Private Person" banner displayed that says "Living and confidential people are managed in a private space. Only you will be able to see and modify this person." Even photos, documents and stories for this kind of person are screened. FamilySearch has two rules for determining if a person should be considered living for reasons of display. First, if the person was born 110 or fewer years ago, married 95 or fewer years ago, or had a child born 95 or fewer years ago. The second rule is that if the record contains no information in the area marked for a death date.

You can see that if you use the tools provided by the developers of the sites, there is reasonable expectation of having the privacy of living family members as well as confidential deceased ancestors' information kept secure. But you, the researcher, needs to do your part with the data you enter into the family trees, both on your own family trees in your lineage software as well as what you provide for uploads.

The author also leaves the reader with two other sources to reference on privacy concerns for family tree information. You can look at the guideline offered by the National Genealogical Society titled *Standards for Sharing Information with Others* at http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/standards_for_sharing_information. You can also take a look at the *Genealogical Privacy Project* blog at www.genealogicalprivacy.org.

You would not want private information about yourself included in any online family trees uploaded by others. Consider them when thinking of including material in any online trees you want to upload. Read the standard from the National Genealogical Society and the Genealogical Privacy blog above. Know the "Privacy" levels from the within the organization that you wish to upload your data to. Be informed. Be sensitive.

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Handout #10 – “WHY WOULD MOM KEEP THAT CRACKED TEA CUP?”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the July-September 2015, Volume 41, Number 3 issue of NGS Magazine.

I thought that an interesting article in this issue is one titled “Why Would Mom Keep that Cracked Tea Cup?”. The author of the article is Jennifer M. Alford.

For genealogists, much of our research deals with records and the paper trails left by our ancestors. We may know much about an ancestor from the various civil records of births, marriages and death or the accompanying church records that may exist for such events. We may also trace down census records, military records, naturalization records, military records and so many more kinds of records. But what about the “things” that might have been associated with a particular ancestor?

The author notes these may be known as “heirlooms”. Always remember that what might be an heirloom to a particular researcher might very well not be an heirloom to another researcher. So, you may always have to contend with that distinction. The author provides her own definition for herself as to what an heirloom is. The author states “Anything that you find of special meaning and you have a story that goes with it.”

The article notes certain categories of heirlooms as:

- Photographs and other papers of significance
- Handmade items
- Historical items
- Gifts from special people

Heirlooms need a story to make them significant for family history. Without a story it is just a “thing”.

Once you have identified what to you is an heirloom the author poses questions that need to be asked about the item in order to put the story together. These questions are:

- Who gave it to you?
- When did you get it? Was it a special occasion?
- Is there a special story or memory associated with it?
- How old is it?
- Who would be interested to know you have it (i.e. who would appreciate it)?

The author suggests you now have to face a very difficult part of working with heirlooms. You need to put yourself in the mindset of a curator for a special collection. No easy task especially if you are dealing with a very large collection of

items. If materials are photographs you may want to stick with photos that are of sentimental value and of particular significance. Now is the time to non-curate blurred pictures or unknown images of scenery. If perhaps you have the only picture known of a departed ancestor, then that is one that may be of significant importance to not only yourself but to all of the family members associated with your research and curation. That one picture is one to scan and digitize and get into as many hands as possible.

Documentation of what you have in your possession as an heirloom is critical. Again, think of the who, what, when, where and why questions as guidelines to describe those heirlooms. The author also suggests you assess what you have in your possession on a room-by-room basis using the following checklist:

- Start room by room of your own home and make a list identifying items you feel are worthy of documenting.
- After you make the list of your rooms, start with the shortest list for a particular room.
- Photograph that item and complete the form created to detail the story behind the item along with a physical description of the item.
- If the item is not to be displayed, store the item in a climate controlled location and use archival methods whenever possible.
- Share your photo and information with your relatives whenever possible. The stories and photos will inspire them to document their own treasures.
- Repeat the process room by room.

The author states that now you have to think in terms of preservation of these heirlooms. She provides the following tips:

- Keep your heirloom items out of direct sunlight and at moderate temperatures and humidity levels. Ideal temperature is 68 degrees with a 40% humidity level.
- Don't attach anything to the heirlooms that could damage them. No pins, post-it notes, tape or glue.
- Keep similar items together to avoid conflicts in materials. Don't mix together acidic newspapers with photographs that could be damaged.
- Avoid touching any photos with bare hands. Have a pair of archive quality gloves for handling your photos

One of the more important aspects of having documented heirlooms in your possession is to have a plan in place for succession of the materials to other family members upon your death. Communication is important among family members prior to your demise. If other family members have expressed an interest in inheriting various heirlooms in your possession then document those desires via a codicil to your will identifying who gets what heirloom upon your death. The author notes that Denise Levenek has published a very helpful book titled *How to Archive Family Keepsakes: Learn How to Preserve Family Photos, Memorabilia & Genealogy*

Records. You can connect with this book at her website at <http://www.thefamilycurator.com/archive-family-keepsakes/>.

Documents and data are one part of your research. Heirlooms can be another important part of your family history research. Consider incorporating such materials into your research and collection. Let other family members know what you have. Document what you have and share all of that information. And yes, plan for the eventuality of your death and be sure these heirlooms have a place to go after your death.

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