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November 10, 2015 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

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

What does this really mean?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This program "Handout" information will then be uploaded to the Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Blog that is titled "Genealogy with Tony". This blog will be accessible from the library's main web site page at www.schaumburglibrary.org. 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 JANUARY 9, 2016

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.

Please Note: There is no program offered by the society during the month of December 2015.

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society (New Name) will take place on Saturday morning, January 9, 2016. The program for the morning is titled **"Using FaceBook to Break Down Genealogical Brick Walls (Live Webinar)"**. The speaker for the morning will be **Katherine Willson**.

Facebook is quickly becoming a favorite resource among genealogical researchers for its vast networking capabilities. With the formation of many thousands of regional and surname-specific genealogy groups, Facebook is breaking down brick walls that have blocked researchers for years - often within 24 hours of posting a query! This presentation will introduce members to Facebook as a genealogy tool and will guide the participants through the process of creating an account, joining groups, managing notifications, and efficiently utilizing Facebook for their specific genealogical needs. Participants will be given handouts as well as a link to a free downloadable PDF file listing 5,000+ genealogical pages & groups on Facebook.

Katherine Willson, of Ann Arbor, MI is a professional genealogist, educator and public speaker. She started researching her family tree as Junior Girl Scout working towards a "My Heritage" badge, and her passion was fueled when, in her 20s, both her mother's and father's relatives gave her binders containing generations worth of family information.

Her passion for genealogy combined with practical and creative strategies keeps Katherine's audience fully engaged and actively participating in her energetic and entertaining presentations. Participants leave with the tools necessary to do their own research, as well as the inspiration to do it! Katherine is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Great Lakes Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Genealogical Speakers Guild (newsletter columnist), the Federation of Genealogical Societies (Membership Committee), the National Genealogical Society and multiple regional and state genealogical societies.

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 NOVEMBER 18, 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, November 18, 2015. The program scheduled for that evening is "Beginning Polish Genealogy". The speaker for the program will be Jason Kruski.

You may visit the society's web page at:

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 NOVEMBER 21, 2015 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY IN SCHAUMBURG, IL

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, November 21, 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 **"Visit with Benjamin Franklin"**. The speaker will be **Terry Lynch**.

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 DECEMBER 8, 2015

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, December 8, 2015.

We will have another “break-out” session for our gathering on December 8, 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 December 8, 2015.

You may visit the library's web page at:

www.SchaumburgLibrary.org

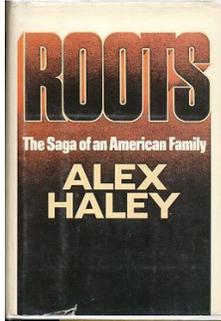
to view a Calendar of Events section of the library web page for this program and for many more non-genealogical programs offered by our library.

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 – REMAKE OF THE POPULAR “ROOTS” TELEVISION PROGRAM TO AIR IN 2016

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



"Roots" was a 1977 television miniseries in the USA based on Alex Haley's 1976 novel, *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*. It received 37 Emmy Award nominations and won nine. It also won a Golden Globe and a Peabody Award. The program's Nielsen ratings for the finale still holds a record as the third highest rated episode for any type of television series, and the second most watched overall series finale in U.S. television history. Now a remake of the mini-series is planned for broadcast in 2016.

According to the Encyclopedia of World Biography:

The tale follows the life of Kunta Kinte, a proud African who was kidnapped from his village in West Africa. After surviving the middle passage (the brutal shipment of Africans to be sold in the Americas), he was made a slave on a plantation in the United States. Haley visited archives, libraries, and research repositories on three continents to make the book as authentic (real) as possible. He even reenacted Kunta's experience during the middle passage by spending a night in the hold of a ship (the storage room below deck) stripped to his underwear.

You can read more about Haley at <http://www.notablebiographies.com/Gi-He/Haley-Alex.html#ixzz3mwZa7hzy>.

The book and the television series were not without controversy. Alex Haley made several errors in his genealogy research. He claimed to have used oral traditions, supplemented by "plantation records, wills, and census records." Professional genealogists Gary B. and Elizabeth Shown Mills reviewed the documentation Haley used to obtain information about his ancestry and found, "In truth, those same plantation records, wills, and censuses cited by Mr. Haley not only fail to document his story, but they contradict each and every pre-Civil War statement of Afro-American lineage in *Roots*." Haley later admitted that his account of Kunta Kinte's life in *Roots* was a mixture of fact and fiction.

American author Harold Courlander also claimed that the section describing Kinte's life was apparently taken from Courlander's book *The African*. Haley at first

dismissed the charge, but later issued a public statement affirming that Courlander's book had been the source. Haley paid Courlander \$650,000 in a financial settlement.

Despite the inaccuracies in the book, it is still widely read in schools.

A remake of the television series is now being planned by A+E Studios, starring Laurence Fishburne. Hopefully, the errors will be corrected in the new production. The new version of Roots will be a mini-series series to be simulcast on A&E, History and Lifetime in 2016.

Comments by Tony Kierna

For those of us doing genealogy today we may have so much to thank this amazing television series that appeared on broadcast TV in 1977. Even in spite of the controversy as to the facts provided by Alex Haley, the story line itself captured many of the hearts of Americans.

I know that personally for me I was working on a special assignment for my employer that required many hours per day. We were off-site from our normal work location. Yet we knew the story line was so incredible that one of our managers brought in a portable TV with "rabbit ears" antenna to leave on in the background as we completed our work tasks. This for me was in the days when if you missed the original airing of the show you were at the mercy of maybe catching it in the distant future as a re-run. I did not have a VCR to record it, nor was there yet such a thing as Comcast-On-Demand that would have allowed one to see it with the punch of a button! If you are my age you know what I speak of regarding 1977 TV technology!

I had no interest in genealogy back in 1977 but I know that viewing the "Roots" series did in fact place a seed of future interest in my mind. Of course, back in 1977 I was a whole lot younger and at that age family history was not just an important item in my life. But I sure do know that my view of family history certainly took a turn in my life many years ago. And here I am today doing what I can to not only research my own family history but to also those who are interested in pursuing this great journey of discovery.

It looks like this future presentation of "Roots" will not occur on regular broadcast TV but instead will appear in simulcast mode on the A&E, History and Lifetime cable channel in 2016. Personally, I have always been a fan of Lawrence Fishburne and am looking forward to see him in this upcoming role. He will play a small part portraying Alex Haley, author of the book "Roots". I did a search on Google to discover more about who is in the cast and what the characters are. Here is a link to that information <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3315386/fullcredits/>.

Because of the controversy surrounding the original story and research done by Alex Haley, many of us interested in seeing the remake await how or if the storyline has been corrected. The new production may just be a wonderful fictional storyline that will convey the same deep emotion that surrounds family history without claiming it is connected to facts. It may pack a punch, as did the first series in 1977, when the storyline describes family history through the eye of slavery and the generations that sprung forth after slavery ended in the United States.

I do not yet see a definite release date noted anywhere yet. Keep your eyes and ears open for publicity that will be present surrounding a viewing date. There will be plenty because of the historical aspects of what the original "Roots" did statistically for viewership levels. I will certainly share any known air time dates in my blog post as it becomes available.

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Handout #7 – “WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?” SEASONS 4 AND 5 NOW AVAILABLE FROM HULU.COM

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated October 12, 2015.



Past episodes of the U.S. version of *Who Do You Think You Are?* are now available on Hulu, the streaming video channel available on the Internet. Only season 4 (2013) and season 5 (2014) episodes are available, however. Those programs include the following guest celebrities:

Season 4:

Kelly Clarkson
Christina Applegate
Chelsea Handler
Zooey Deschanel
Chris O'Donnell
Cindy Crawford
Trisha Yearwood
Jim Parsons

Season 5:

Cynthia Nixon
Jesse Tyler Ferguson
Rachel McAdams
Valerie Bertinelli
Kelsey Grammer
Minnie Driver

Hulu is an on-demand streaming video service available on the Internet. Subscribers can watch movies and television shows on computers, tablet computers, smartphones, “smart” television sets, Roku, Apple TV, Playstation, Xbox game consoles, and other devices for a monthly subscription fee. Prices start at \$7.99 a month and includes not only “Who Do You Think You Are?” but thousands of movies, television programs, and other streaming media. Hulu is offered only to users in Japan and the United States and its overseas territories. Viewers in other countries will need to use a VPN or similar technology to view the episodes. (For an explanation of watching foreign television using VPNs, see my earlier article, *How to Watch Genealogy and Other Television Programs from Other Countries*, at <http://goo.gl/fPMonw>.)

I frequently watch movies and television programs on Hulu by accessing it on an Apple TV device and occasionally from hotel rooms by using a laptop or tablet computer. It works well as long as a moderately high-speed Internet connection is available.

The one-hour *Who Do You Think You Are?* programs are condensed to about 42 minutes on Hulu as most of the commercials have been deleted. In their place, Hulu typically adds one or two of their own commercials but only at the beginning and sometimes one commercial in mid-program. None of the videos of the celebrities and their ancestry have been deleted. I find watching television programs on Hulu to be much more pleasant than watching the same programs on broadcast or cable channels simply because of the fewer obnoxious commercial interruptions.

Even better, with the online streaming video services, you can watch the programs and movies whenever you want. You are not constrained to watching only at a time selected by the broadcasters. I now watch Hulu and Netflix and Amazon Instant Video and Apple TV much more often than I do cable or broadcast channels. I rarely watch "regular" television except for news programs and an occasional live football or hockey game.

You might find a Hulu subscription to be worth \$7.99 a month if it has content of interest to you. You can learn more about *Who Do You Think You Are?* on Hulu at <http://www.hulu.com/who-do-you-think-you-are>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

In today's world, television content can be gotten from many sources. Obviously, we have available initial programming when content appears for the first time, either on broadcast TV or cable or even now on the Internet. "Who Do You Think You Are?" initially appeared on NBC broadcast television for 3 seasons. Then NBC ended the content relationship with the show. The show was then picked up by The Learning Channel on cable TV.

Often times after the initial viewing of the show on broadcast TV with NBC, viewers could still replay the show on demand by generally going to a website dedicated to the show. So if you missed the original airing, you could easily watch the show on your computer or on your computer connected to your TV.

As this show moved about with the different networks it appeared on, being able to view the show if you missed the original airing also changed. When season 4 and 5 of the show that appeared on The Learning Channel, viewers could only view episodes they missed by paying a fee to iTunes and download the show for viewing. Yes, you might be able to catch a "free" viewing on the TLC website of one of their episodes or even watch a marathon of the shows on the TLC cable channel.

Now, we see that there even another way to view shows of this wonderful genealogy program. More and more of us are ending our cable company relationships and are going to an ala carte way to view shows. Hulu is another alternative that is relatively inexpensive. It appears that what is being offered on Hulu are only the episodes of the show that were created by TLC. Hulu often gets many formerly on-air TV

programs that we can tap in to all of their seasonal offerings of shows for the series. Plus, you get to view these shows without the original commercials for a viewing length of 42 minutes.

So, if you are a Hulu subscriber, or may become one, you will have the capability to view all of Season 4 and Season 5 when you want to with only slight commercial insertions placed by Hulu. You will not have to make separate payment for the ability to see these shows. You can view them when you want. You can view one or all of them at no additional cost to you other than your subscription rate.

Best yet, all of these shows are available to you on your mobile devices. So you do not even have to be home to watch these on your TV. Since we are more and more geared to mobile device watching of content today, you can watch these on the go if you choose.

I am not sure if Hulu will ever have Seasons 1, 2 and 3 of this show, but maybe those are still in possession of NBC who choose not to release them to Hulu or may choose to release them to another streaming service.

If you like this show (who doesn't?) and you are a Hulu subscriber, your ship has come in. If you are not a Hulu subscriber and like this show, this may swing you over to become a subscriber to Hulu. In any case, you now have another source to be able to view at least Season 4 and Season 5 of this show.

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Handout #8 – MICROSOFT SKYPE SIMPLIFIES GROUP VIDEO CHATS

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated October 16, 2015.

Want to have a "family get-together" online or a meeting of the Board of Directors of your genealogy society, even if the participants are separated by long distances? Skype has offered group video chats for some time but it was always a bit awkward to set up such a chat and to invite others to join in. Now the process has been simplified.

Skype for Windows, Skype for Mac or Skype for Web users can generate a unique URL and send it to others, enabling them to join a group and start chatting. The recipients don't have to be Skype users; they can receive the URL via email, Messenger, WhatsApp, Twitter and/or other channels.

The new chat-invitation feature enables group instant-messaging chats, voice chats and/or video chats.

The new feature is now available most everywhere within the United States and should be available in the rest of the world within a few weeks.

Details may be found at <http://goo.gl/GVCdbU> and in the video below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ojly8VCTLGE>

Comments by Tony Kierna

What better way to connect with distant cousins worldwide than with Skype! I am a Skype user as well as a Face Time user with Apple products! Face Time is nice but you are limited connecting to one other Apple product user at a time. No group chats with what Apple offers in Face Time.

Now Skype is making it easier to have group video calls. Easier is always better. Easier means you can also get more and more of your newly discovered cousins to participate with Skype, or even in this case, not participate as a user. Yes, even non-Skype participants can participate with a simple e-mail invitation.

I say use Skype as a platform to connect with newly discovered cousins worldwide. If you are on Skype, encourage other cousins to also participate with Skype. Once they have a User ID, you can find them in the online Skype Directory and then invite them to become part of your group list. Hopefully, they accept, and away the two of you go having video calls sharing family history information.

Yes, you can pick other services to do similar functions such as Google +. Most are not that well known or as large. This does appear to be a rather large upgrade on the part of Skype (owned by Microsoft) at this time. Group chats on video are great when you can work them out across many different time zones. But at least it is now an option to entertain using group chat within Skype, especially if the vast majority of any intended participants are more local to your area and do not cross

too many time zones. I know about time zones changes as I have close relations living in Europe. I have to be aware that Europe is 7 hours ahead. So when I am rarin' to go at 3 PM in the afternoon, I have to realize that someone is already putting the grandchild to bed in Europe at 10 PM their time! But we each get used to it and plan ahead appropriately.

If you are not a Skype user give it a try. Ask around if anyone you know is a Skype user so you can experiment making calls together and you can be invited into their group. Now with this addition of features to Skype, there is so much more to learn and utilize within the software. Plus it is all free unless you take advantage of other subscribable Skype calling features.

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Handout #9 – “BETWEEN THE HEADLINES: SENSATIONAL SNIPPETS AND SCOOPS”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the September/October 2015, Volume 1, Number 4 issue of Your Genealogy Today.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “Between the Headlines: Sensational Snippets and Scoops”. The author of the article is Sue Lisk.

The author notes that researching newspapers of the area an ancestor lived is a great way to discover great information about that ancestor as well as to learn what life was like during the time of that ancestor in that locale. The author provides seven tips on how to use these newspapers to discover the most about your ancestor and about the things going on in the area where they lived.

Here are the seven tips:

- **Pretend You’re A Local**

- Late 19th century papers often focused on items of interest to the local community rather than at the national level.
- Read through an issue of one of these papers that would have been published at the time of an ancestor’s life in the area. Get a feel for the layout and the organization of what was reported.
- Skim through the short items including lists of names.
- Look for graduates of schools at the end of school years in the May/June periods.
- Patents were commonly published along with the name of the person granted the patented. Look for these.

- **Browse Through More Than One Issue**

- Looking at just one issue of a local historical paper will not give you the overall feeling of what was going on.
- Perhaps you might discover the name of an ancestor. Perhaps there was life to the story about them and that further published newspapers continued reporting on that ancestor.
- The author relates a story of an ancestor coming down with diphtheria. The story continued over time because it was not just about diphtheria for this one person. The names of the children of this ancestor were mentioned as also having succumbed to the illness. Yet, newspaper reports over the next weeks noted other children of this ancestor had been quarantined elsewhere and had survived. The researcher never knew about these children until she saw the story unfold over many issues of the paper.

- **Check Out The Ads**

- If you know of the employment of an ancestor, check out and look for ads that might have appeared for this company in the newspapers. You can then discover the address and other information of this company and how your ancestor may have interacted with the company such as simply commuting to get to work.
- **The author notes a discovery of an ancestor via ads in a Syracuse newspaper.** The ancestor was seen in a census record with an occupation as “ironer” for “W-House”. At first the researcher thought the ancestor was employed by the “White House” in a Syracuse also known as the Hamilton White House. It later turned out the researcher discovered ads for a certain type of iron used at the time and connected this ancestor as being a “demonstrator” for this iron rather than being employed by the Hamilton White House.

- **Read The Society Columns**

- **Newspapers documented visits that occurred between family members from outside of the area and often noted where they were from.**
- **Reports were often made on people that left the community and noted where they moved to.** This can help you track an ancestor for whom you can no longer find them in the community they once lived in.
- **Weddings and funerals were often described in detail** and listed individuals and where they were from.
- Fairs, picnics, private garden parties and other celebrations were often noted as well as listing the names of those in attendance.
- The author notes she discovered information about an outdoor party celebrating one of her ancestors. The reporter noted in the story the description of the house and garden of the celebrant, the story of the original log cabin and information about the celebrant’s family.

- **Be On The Lookout For “Imposters”**

- **You may be unlucky to find the many stories of a certain named ancestor only to realize this story may be for someone else unrelated to you.** This is especially true with common surnames.
- Many of these stories also provided further information within the story that could help you verify if this person is your relative. Look for an occupation noted for this individual. Look for the mentioning of other family names. You can now use this information to see if it matches with discoveries of any of your previous research to confirm that the story is about your ancestor.

- Keep in mind that if you see the exact name of someone mentioned that you know is not your ancestor it may be that you have not yet discovered the connection. The same name of a parent was often given to a child. Perhaps it is a child you have not yet discovered in your research as part of that family. Use this as a clue for further research.

- **Review Legal Notices**

- Court case information often appeared in these notices. You could find the name of plaintiffs and defendants; names of jurors; names of witnesses.
- Perhaps an auction was done on one of your ancestors. You know that but perhaps you can discover the life changing event that might have put them in the situation of being involved in an auction.
- Look for an ancestor associated with a probate and guardianship notices. You may now know that a death was involved and that also other family members were involved in taking over guardianship for under-age children.

- **Study Obituaries**

- You could discover a mini-family tree of the deceased, listing their parents, their siblings, their children and grandchildren. For siblings of the deceased, you may discover the names of spouses of these siblings.
- You may also encounter the infamous description of the wife of a deceased man. She is often just noted as Mrs. John Smith which deprives you of her first name and maiden name. You should consider searching the census for this couple in a previous year to see if you can find her true name as well as a birth state that might be different from your deceased ancestor.
- Sometimes a large part of an obituary might be about the deceased person's father or mother or sibling. While the deceased may not be a person of notoriety, a relative may have such a prominent history that the story is put into the obituary.

The author also included some "free" and some "subscribable" sites to consider for access to online digital historical newspapers. Sites mentioned are:

- Free Sites
 - Chronicling America, Historic American Newspapers @ <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>
 - News.Google.com @ <http://news.google.com/newspapers>
 - OurOntario.ca Community Newspapers Collection @ <http://ink.ourontario.ca/browse/st>
 - Fultonhistory.com has New York state papers @ www.fultonhistory.com
- Subscription Sites

- o Genealogy Bank @ www.genealogybank.com/gbnk (Check with your local public library. They may have this database in their collection with onsite access and access at home to library cardholders of the library.)
- o Newspaper Archive @ <http://newspaperarchive.com> (Check with your local public library. They may have this database in their collection with onsite access and access at home to library cardholders of the library.)
- o Newspapers.com @ www.newspapers.com
- o Ancestry.com @ www.ancestry.com

Take advantage of the growing amount of digital newspaper data that allows you to search by surname and other search combinations. Pair these newspapers to the time of your ancestors in the area. Put yourself in their position reading the newspaper then about life in their area.

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Handout #10 – “INTERVIEWING THE ELDERLY”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the September/October 2015, Volume 1, Number 4 issue of Your Genealogy Today.

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled “Interviewing the Elderly”. The author of the article is Brenda Ervin.

One of the early mistakes budding genealogists make is to begin doing exclusive online research. They often never bother to connect with still-living aunts, uncles, grandparents or other known cousins. What makes this especially problematic is that those living relatives that are elderly and still alive are never contacted to obtain some of their life stories and family history they may know.

Do not forget your living elderly relatives. But it may still not be as simple as that. Many elderly pose an interviewing challenge. Many simply do not want to offer their stories or life history to an interviewer. How can a researcher overcome this challenge? According to the author, a trusting relationship needs to be fostered between interviewer and interviewee. This starts at a personal level and can translate to trust at a technical level with recording equipment.

The author of this article is a journalist by trade and so brings to bear much of what she does professionally to interview relatives. The author notes that it is imperative to create an atmosphere without distractions. These distractions could put any interview to an abrupt end and leave the interviewer with nothing to show because distractions can upset the person being interviewed. The author notes that this distraction-free setting begins with just having the interviewer and interviewee present. No other people should be present. This would be the goal but realistically this may not occur because a caregiver may very well want to be present during the interview. Be careful at this point with someone else present because they could take over the interview and provide conflicting information to the person being interviewed.

The author notes that it is worthwhile to have multiple recording devices available. If another person other than the main interviewee is present and wants to speak or even contradict the main interviewee, then offer a separate recording session to this person once the main interview has been completed with the main subject.

In this article you will also see some additional tips offered by the author. These are:

- **Give A Reminder Phone Call** – this allows you to solidify what will be happening and also allows you to provide friendly trust-building between you and the interviewee.
- **Speak Up/Speak Slowly** – you may have to raise your tone a little if the interviewee has some hearing issues. Also speaking a little slower can help. All of this connects to trust building between the two of you.

Speaking slower simply allows the interviewee to have that much more time to process what is being asked as well as to process a reply.

- o **Saying Goodbye** – saying goodbye can be challenging as simple as that might be. The senior may simply be lonely and would want the companionship to continue. Maybe the senior has even more information to share and saying goodbye could cause you to lose some information. Offer to call back in a few days. If appropriate, give a sincere hug, as well as offering a hearty handshake.

First off, do not miss the opportunity to interview an elderly relative. Their stories could be golden for you down the road. Plus, they may have limited time to still be on earth. Don't be one of those researchers that comments that everyone is deceased and the stories cannot be gathered to begin research! Plan for the best and most meaningful interview you can obtain. Build your trust with the person you want to interview. That is the key.

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