



HANDOUTS TABLE OF CONTENTS December 8, 2015

Handout Introduction	Page 2
Schaumburg Township District Library (STDL) Genealogy Blog	Page 4
Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society (New Name!) (NWSGS) Program for January 9, 2016	Page 5
DuPage County Genealogical Society (DCGS) Program for January 20, 2016	Page 7
Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois (CAGGNI) Program for January 16, 2016	Page 8
Schaumburg Township District Library (STDL) January 12, 2016 Genealogy Program	Page 9
FamilyTreeWebinars.com Unveils New Webinar Viewing	Page 11
Rediscovered 300 Year Old Trunk Contains 2,300 Dutch Letters	Page 13
Steve Morse Adds 1921 Canadian Census Search Template	Page 15
"Ancestry Academy: Genealogy Education At Its Best"	Page 18
"Irish Catholic Parish Registers"	Page 21

December 8, 2015 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our December 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. 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"!

++++
++++

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!

++++
++++

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.

++++
++++

**Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT
REGULAR SOCIETY PROGRAM ON JANUARY 20, 2016**

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.

There is no scheduled meeting/program for the society during the month of December 2015.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, January 20, 2016. The program scheduled for that evening is **“Transporting the Dead”**. The speaker for the program will be **Mark Hayes**.

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.

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.

++++
++++

Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGGNI) NEXT PROGRAM ON JANUARY 16, 2016 AT A LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED AS OF THIS WRITING

There is no regular meeting from the society during December 2015.

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, January 16, 2016 at a location to be determined as of this writing starting at 10:30 AM. The program scheduled for this day is **"Publishing Your Book: Tips and Tricks for the Writer"**. The speaker will be **Regina Yuill**.

Does publishing your family history book seem like a daunting task? This talk will help you overcome your fears of writing and publishing your family book. Discussion will cover how to generate ideas for your book, finding your target audience, setting up the book, finding publishing companies and how to use Microsoft Word to add special features to your book. If you've ever considered putting your words to paper for posterity, you won't want to miss this informative and engaging meeting.

CAGGNI member Regina Yuill is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and several other societies. Regina has over 30 years' experience as a real estate paralegal and has researched extensively in county courthouses, libraries and archives, both in the US and Ireland. She has recently published a 528 page book on her mother's family, "Climbing the Irish Shamrock: Phillip and Mary (Sexton) Carolan Family History, 1834 to 2005", and is currently writing a second book covering her father's line.

You may visit the organization web page at:

www.CAGGNI.org

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

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

++++
++++

Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON JANUARY 12, 2016

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, January 12, 2016 at 7:30 PM. Our speaker for the evening will be Grace DuMelle. Grace will present a program titled "Chicago Genealogy 101". This program will take place in the Rasmussen Room South rather than the Classroom because the Classroom will be undergoing renovation at this time. The Rasmussen Room south is literally right next door to the Classroom.

Learn the challenges of searching for Windy City relations, such as address and street name changes and scores of unindexed newspapers. Then discover some resources family historians often overlook: fire insurance maps, inquest records, and probate cases. Grace will offer copies of her book, *Finding Your Chicago Ancestors*, after the program.

Grace DuMelle has been a professional researcher since 1995, helping clients from all over the United States and several foreign countries. Her firm, Heartland Historical Research Service, has assisted the United States Department of Justice and Graystone Communications (parent company of The History Channel), among others.

Heartland's projects have taken Grace to the Library of Congress and the National Archives as well as facilities throughout the greater Chicago area.

Since 2001, Grace has also been on staff at the Newberry Library in Chicago, one of the country's foremost genealogical libraries. Guiding beginners to discoveries about their families is something she greatly enjoys. Her experience on both sides of the reference desk -- as a staffer and as a researcher -- influenced the very practical, hands-on approach of her book, *Finding Your Chicago Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide to Family History in the City and Cook County*. It has received state, regional and national awards for instructional nonfiction, and is now in its second printing from Lake Claremont Press in Chicago.

Grace is an alumna of Rosary College (now Dominican University) and the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research. Media appearances include WGN Radio, WLS TV, WGN TV, Chicago magazine, Real Simple, the Wall Street Journal, and USA Weekend. Conference appearances include Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International 2013, Wisconsin State Genealogical Society 2014, and National Genealogical Society 2006.

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.

++++
++++

Handout #6 – FAMILYTREEWEBINARS.COM UNVEILS NEW WAYS TO VIEW WEBINARS AT THEIR SITE

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated October 27, 2015.

Millennia Corporation, best known as the producers of Legacy Family Tree software, has now introduced a new web site for online genealogy education. Here is an excerpt from the announcement:

New mobile-responsive site with new playlist, searching, browsing, and indexed jump-to features now available for all 275 genealogy courses

SURPRISE, Arizona; October 27, 2015—Millennia Corporation, a leader in family history software, today announced the release of a brand new responsive, mobile-friendly website for FamilyTreeWebinars.com, the leading source for online genealogy education. The new site makes it easy to find topics of interest among the now-275 courses in the library. Genealogists will now be able to watch courses on their smartphones, tablets or other mobile devices.

See what's new in the quick video tour.

The full announcement may be found at <http://goo.gl/k5rY6q>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

I do so enjoy being able to learn more about all kinds of genealogical methods. The best way I find is to connect to Ancestry Academy, Illinois State Genealogical Society Webinars and the Webinars that can be found at FamilyTreeWebinars.com.

Legacy Family Tree is the creator of Windows lineage software. As the producer of this software the company also provided methods of viewing videos to teach you about aspects of its software. Legacy Family Tree had a foot in the door with its training videos to take the next step into offering live webinars and archived videos of these webinars.

Training videos for genealogy and genealogy webinars have been growing by leaps and bounds over the last few years. With this growth come larger amounts of these webinars to search through to find the particular video of interest to you and your research needs.

FamilyTreeWebinars is a subscribable service all unto itself. It is not part of any purchase of the lineage software they offer. The subscription rates are offered in two ways. You can subscribe on an annual basis for \$49.95 (website notes the normal annual price is \$79.95) or on a monthly basis for \$9.95 per month (website notes the normal monthly price is \$12.95).

FamilyTreeWebinars has an incredible 275 webinar/videos in its subscribable collection! They are grouped according to various genealogical topics such as

Beginners, DNA, FamilySearch, Google, Methodology and Skills and various other categories.

The video link above presents you with an overview video of:

- How to use the newly redesigned webinars archive to find videos
- Put them in your list for future viewing
- Pick up viewing of an already started video
- Discover all the presenters and their programs offered
- Discover the most recently added webinars
- Select a certain chapter of a video for viewing
- Direct search the archive totality using keywords
- Webinars will be appropriately sized on your viewing device regardless of which device you are using

When you consider there are 275 webinar videos available, the cost per webinar is very small should you subscribe on an annual basis (about 18 cents per webinar!). Subscribe for one year, do some binge watching for the year and look at all of the webinars available!

If you are not familiar with Legacy Family Tree and FamilyTreeWebinars.com now is the time to take a look at the sites. I think you will be happy with what you see at the Webinars site. You will find new searching plus all of the other nice features to manage your webinar viewing pleasure. Just think, 275 webinars! Binge viewing! Sounds like a New Year's Eve marathon for watching the Twilight Zone!

++++
++++

Handout #7 – REDISCOVERED LEATHER TRUNK REVEALS THOUSANDS OF LETTERS FROM THE 17TH CENTURY

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated November 11, 2015.

Talk about the Dead Letter Office! A 300-year-old linen-lined trunk filled with over 2,600 letters that were mailed out—but never received—between the years 1680 and 1706 has recently been discovered in The Hague, Netherlands. The extraordinary collection contains letters from all manner of society, including aristocrats, merchants, lovers, actors, musicians, and even spies. At least 600 of the 2,600 letters have never even been opened. Historians are now taking a closer look.



An international team from Leiden, Oxford, MIT, and Yale are taking part in this project. You can read more about the historians' study of the letters in a web site called *Signed, Sealed, & Undelivered* at <http://brienne.org> and especially at <http://brienne.org/press-kit>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

WOW! What a fascinating discovery! It has to remind somewhat of the discoveries we may have made when we were searching through attics or basements among those hidden cardboard boxes. We know it must have been from our relatives, but what was there as we feverishly opened up those boxes!

Not quite like the gold mask from King Tut but still seeing original material from 300 years ago, some items having never been opened. Imagine the stories to be discovered there once this material is opened and examined.

It is interesting to note that these letters may have accumulated over time in the era when written because the recipient had to pay a fee to get the letter. If the recipient was deceased, absent or just disinterested no fee could be collected. Consequently, these letters were not delivered and went back to the postmaster. Sounds like the "dead letter" term really connects to the "dead". The box of letters traces back to a postmaster who in 1926 was still in the possession of this material.

I always find it amazing that something like this has lasted this long, 300 years, without it coming to see the light of day or having been thrown out 300 years ago! That is a lot of oversight by a lot of individuals over that length of time for a decision not to be made to just pitch this material. But we are now the beneficiaries of this inaction to discard.

Over time, this material is going to be researched and analyzed. We will get a glimpse into the world of the Netherlands and the exchange of information via these letters that took place 300 years ago.

I guess the lesson to be learned here that could be applicable to your own research is open up all those boxes that you gain access to when doing your genealogy research!! You may have to go through boxes within boxes within boxes! You never know what you are going to find or how old the material is. You may be that first person seeing the material after an untold number of years.

What's in your newly discovered attic box?

++++
++++

Handout #8 – STEVE MORSE ADDS 1921 CANADIAN CENSUS TO ITS LIST OF ONE-STEP SEARCH TOOLS

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated November 5, 2015.

Dr. Stephen Morse is the originator of the very popular One-Step Search Tools, a collection of search tools that simplify searching of information on the major genealogy databases on a variety of other web sites. He allows anyone to use these "One Step Webpages" at his website, <http://www.stevemorse.org>, without charge as a public service.

Searching the 1921 Canadian Census in One Step
Stephen P. Morse, San Francisco

Free 1901 Canadian Census British Census US Census My Other Webpages
You will get more detailed results if you have an [ancestry.com](#) subscription and are [logged on](#).

PERSON (any or all fields in this section can be left blank)

First Name is exactly starts with Middle Initial Last Name is exactly starts with sounds like best matches

Birth Year between and Birth Month Age
1911 only 1851, 1906

Birthplace Sex Marital Status

Relationship Tribal Year of Immigration +/-
1851, 1901, 1911 not before 1901

Nationality Religion Occupation
1901, 1911, 1921 1891 and 1901 1901 only

RELATIVES (any or all fields in this section can be left blank)

	First Name	Last Name (1921 only)	Birthplace (1891 and 1921)
Father	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Mother	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Spouse	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Siblings (1921 only)	<input type="text"/> Use commas to separate multiple siblings		
Children (1921 only)	<input type="text"/> Use commas to separate multiple children		

GEOGRAPHIC REGION (any or all fields in this section can be left blank)

Province District select province first

Sub-District select district first DO NOT WRITE HERE

Sub-District Name Street Address
not 1901 1911 and 1921

Municipality
1921 only

Start search at entry hits/page Keywords

Steve has now added a search method for the 1921 Canadian Census that simplifies finding the data you seek. The data being indexed is from Ancestry.com. Steve simply created alternative methods of searching the information on Ancestry.com. While you enter the search parameters at <http://www.stevemorse.org>, clicking on SUBMIT then redirects you to the Ancestry.com web site to see the results.

To try the search for yourself, go to <http://www.stevemorse.org> and click on "Canada/UK Census."

While you are on the [stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org) web site, make sure you look around at all the other excellent software tools that Steve has created!

Comments by Tony Kierna

Steve Morse has done so much for genealogical researchers to make their searches easier on a variety of databases. He has created more detailed search templates that can be used on many of the various popular database services we use as those from Ellis Island and Ancestry.com.

Now he has expanded on his templates and has created one to be used with the 1921 Canadian Census. Here is a link from his site that will get you to the 1921 Canadian Census One-Step Search Tool:

<http://stevemorse.org/census/canada1911.html>

When you see the full list of the search forms he has you will note that he indicates with a "\$" sign those forms that are connected to be used with subscribable sites.

All of the search templates at his site are available for free.

Some of the templates you can use are:

- *Ellis Island Search*
- *New York Passengers*
- *Castle Garden*
- *Baltimore Passengers*
- *Boston Passengers*
- *Galveston Passengers*
- *New Orleans Passengers*
- *Philadelphia Passengers*
- *US Census*
- *Canadian and British Census*
- *Calendars*
- *Longitude/Latitude*
- *Maps*
- *Foreign Alphabets*
- *Holocaust and Eastern Europe*
- *Genetic Genealogy*

I liken his site to an online encyclopedia about all of the tools that are at your fingertips to help make your online searches easier as well as tools to help you better understand your results.

When you use the forms you may notice that you might have to enter in an identification account or user ID even for the "free" sites you are trying to use the template within. One example of this is trying to access the Ellis Island site. Yes, Ellis Island is a free site but it requires you to register and that registration ID needs to be used with the Steve Morse template.

One of the nicest tools on the site is one that is helpful for ancestral research of ancestors that lived in large urban cities. Maybe you know of an ancestor's address for a particular census but you have been unable to find them in the search of that census using their name. For rural areas, you could just start browsing the images of the pages looking for that ancestor among hundreds of names. In a large city of Chicago, you cannot just browse through thousands of pages of images. Using the address you might know, you can use the Steve Morse Unified Census ED finder for the 1880 through 1940 US Census. With this tool you can include cross streets for the address in question to really get down to the exact Enumeration District. If all the input information is good you will be presented with the Enumeration District for that address. Once you know the ED you can then browse through the images of the ED looking for your ancestor by viewing the images. The transcription process may have mis-transcribed the name not allowing you to find it via search. Also, keep in mind, even viewing the images you may not find your ancestor. Perhaps they moved to a new location?!

While you may not have Canadian ancestors specific to the using the new tool created by Steve Morse, you can still take a look at all that he has on his site that can be helpful to your overall genealogy research. His site is worth bookmarking for future use time and again.

+++++

Handout #9 – “ANCESTRY ACADEMY: GENEALOGY EDUCATION AT ITS BEST”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the October/November 2015, Volume 10, Number 4 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that a good article in this issue is titled “Ancestry Academy: Genealogy Education at Its Best”. The author of the article is George G. Morgan.

I am a big believer in using the power of online video courses and online webinars to advance your genealogical research skills. Yes, you can use YouTube and find many online tutorial videos there for genealogy. Many are quite well done and share good amounts of information to help you learn.

Ancestry Academy provides tutorials that have been created in a more professional manner than many others that you can find online. These productions appear to be created in a studio having many electronic bells and whistles to make the production a very polished production.

While we may start out focusing on very few research techniques as our research builds over time, we will ultimately begin to branch out (no pun intended) to want to learn many other aspects of genealogy. Perhaps we start with basic Census research of our local area and then discover that an ancestor noted they were born in another state. Now we may switch gears to want to learn about researching that state. Perhaps we discover that an ancestor was in the military, we may now want to pursue military research. Maybe we saw that an ancestor was from our original ethnic line, like Polish, and discover that a marriage took place between our original Polish ancestor and an Irish spouse. Perhaps we may want to now learn about researching Irish ancestry.

Yes, our original digging into genealogy is straight and narrow but can soon expand to much more than just that. This is the beauty of tapping into these online video resources that can educate you about these new resources you will explore.

Laura G. Prescott is the Director of Ancestry Academy. She is a well-respected professional genealogist knowledgeable about all that Ancestry Academy provides. Ancestry Academy is a subscribable Ancestry product that also offers many “free” videos to watch. If you are already an Ancestry World Explorer Plus subscriber, you have access to “all” that is included in Ancestry Academy for no additional cost to you. If you do not have the full subscription to Ancestry.com, you can subscribe to the Academy for \$11.99 per month or for \$99.99 per year that will give you access to “all” of the videos. As an Ancestry.com subscriber in some form, you can at least access the “free” videos of the Academy that are available. These change, so over time you will have access to many more “free” videos just by being an Ancestry subscriber. If you are not an Ancestry.com subscriber, then you will not be able to access any of the material, even the “free” material since it is technically “free” to existing Ancestry.com subscribers to some degree. You will see all that is available

by title, but if you try to open a “free” video for viewing, you will be asked to sign into your Ancestry.com account.

Here is a link to get you to the home page of the Academy:

<https://www.ancestry.com/academy/>

The article notes that each course is generally between 30 to 90 minutes. Each course is divided into modules that address one aspect of the course. This means you can quickly get to an aspect of the course very quickly for a quick review. These aspects might run for a few minutes. Closed captioning is also available for the hearing impaired. You can watch a module as many times as you like.

The module almost always provides a collection of resources. You may see class handouts, forms, images of articles and graphics.

Another interesting component is that there are a set of questions that you can test yourself on to see how much you have retained from the learning module. Your answers are electronically graded so you receive quick feedback. Each question has a link to the part of the video that you can review to better retain the information.

The article also provides a nice listing of who are the instructors that you will see among the myriad of videos offered. The lists provided note that a certain set of speakers are Ancestry.com employees while another list provides the names of speakers in the Academy that are not employees of Ancestry.com. There are 9 Ancestry.com employees noted as speakers. There are 19 non-Ancestry.com speakers noted in the article. Just from the above there is a vast pool of knowledgeable experts being used to create these very informative courses.

Among the “free” (free to at least an Ancestry.com subscriber) course titles you can discover are:

- “Your Family History Online: Laying the Foundation”
- “Seek and Ye Shall Find: Become an Ancestry Search Expert”
- “You Found What in the 1940 Census?”
- “DNA 101: An Insider’s Scoop on AncestryDNA Testing”
- “Getting the Most Out of Family Tree Maker”
- “Finding Your Military Veterans on Fold3”
- “Newspapers.com: Getting the Scoop on Your Ancestors”
- “Digging for Ancestors with FindAGrave”
- “Cousin Bait: Make Social Media Work for You”

Currently, just browsing within the Academy, I see that there are a total of 41 courses available to view in total, some free to Ancestry.com subscribers in some fashion, the rest available as a subscriber to the Academy.

I heartily recommend at least visiting the Ancestry Academy web site and exploring the variety of courses they offer. If you are a full Ancestry.com subscriber, you will have access to this material. If you are an Ancestry.com subscriber in a lesser

capacity, you will have access to the "free" courses offered by Ancestry. If you are not a personal subscriber to Ancestry.com, you will not be able to view any of the courses offered.

I truly enjoy learning more about a topic that can help me in my research. To view these professionally created learning experiences is even better. Check out the Academy link up above and explore and experiment with what you see that is available.

++++
++++

Handout #10 – “IRISH CATHOLIC PARISH REGISTERS”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the October/November 2015, Volume 10, Number 4 issue of Internet Genealogy.

Another wonderful article in this issue is the article titled “Irish Catholic Parish Registers”. The author of this article is Joe Grandinetti.

If you are doing Irish research, then your ship has come in to be able to access this new resource. Those doing Irish research should become aware of this new available resource. In recent years, many Irish resources have become available for the online researcher. The property focused Tithe Applotment Books and the surviving Irish Censuses have been made available by the National Archives of Ireland at www.nationalarchives.ie. Ask About Ireland has made available the property focused Griffith’s Primary Valuation records at www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation.

On July 8, 2015 the National Library of Ireland released nearly 375,000 digitized images of Catholic parish registers. The records are available online and for free at <http://registers.nli.ie>. The records cover baptisms, marriages and to a lesser extent, deaths from nearly 1,100 parishes across the whole of Ireland from the mid-1700s to the 1880s.

These records have been spoken of as being “the single most important source of information on Irish family history prior to the 1901 census”. Obviously, all of this new data helps you if your ancestors were Irish Catholics! It is estimated that during these time periods, Catholics represented about 75% of the total population of Ireland.

The most important thing to know about these online records is that they have not been transcribed. To make the most use of these images, it is important that your research has at least pointed you to a County of origin and a more specific town of origin that would be associated with a parish. The author does note that at a future date it is likely this material will be transcribed into index format allowing name searching. But that is uncertain and even more uncertain as to whether the data would be for “free” or only through a “subscribable” service.

The author also notes that the quality of the original is challenging, with numerous blotches, shadows and tattered pages being reflected in the images. The data itself may have time intervals missing as well as some entries might only have been put to paper in Latin.

When you begin searching by selecting a parish name, the available microfilmed images are shown as indexed into baptisms, marriages and deaths, also identified by the years covered. You can filter through the images by using a given month and/or year. The images can be scrolled, zoomed, adjusted for brightness and contrast, downloaded and printed.

The author notes that the researcher should be cognizant of parish boundary changes over time which makes it well worth searching neighboring parishes to the one that you may have started searching. Also, according to the author, be aware of different notes that may have been made on the original documents in the various categories of births, marriages and deaths. You find notes on illegitimacy in births, dispensations in marriages related to cousins being married.

You can also consider the Family History Library as an alternative for a source for this material. The author indicates that about 40% of this material is in the microfilms of the Family History Library. Some of the material in the Family History Collection was filmed separately than what was made available by the National Library of Ireland. Different filming might mean better quality and inclusion of more possible data.

Quoting from the article on how to go about to best prepare and use this data:

“Don’t just take a blind leap of faith. Effective use of the records involves preparation and diligence. Gather information on your subjects from as many sources as possible, consider the LDS microfilms, and educate yourself on the geography of ancestral parishes. Then bestow a little forgiveness if your parish registers’ appearance is less than divine.”

This is a great newly released resource for Irish researchers. Visit the site above and explore all that is there about how to use the site in the most effective manner possible. Remember, it is not indexed. You cannot enter in the name of an ancestral surname. You need to have some idea of location of an ancestor from your research. Learn about the parishes.

++++
++++