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February 9, 2016 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our February 9, 2016 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 MARCH 5, 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.

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society (New Name) will take place on Saturday morning, March 5, 2016. The program for the morning is titled **“Researching at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives”**. The speaker for the morning will be **George Findlen**.

George Findlen is a retired college teacher and administrator who researches the blended Acadian / French-Canadian families of Eastern Quebec, the Canadian Maritime Provinces, and the New England states. His articles have appeared in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, and in genealogical society journals in several New England states, Louisiana, New Brunswick, and Quebec. He gives talks to genealogy groups in the Upper Midwest and leads skill-development workshops for the Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives.

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 FEBRUARY 17, 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.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, February 17, 2016. The program scheduled for that evening is **“Advanced 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.

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 #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGGNI) NEXT PROGRAM ON FEBRUARY 20, 2016 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, February 20, 2016 at the Schaumburg Township District Library in Schaumburg, IL. The program scheduled for this day is **"Uncle Jake's Farm: Federal Land A - Z"**. The speaker will be **S. Elizabeth Ross**.

In this day of a skills based economy, we 21st century people tend to forget that for most of history, wealth was owning land. In the United States, incredible amounts of Federal land turned into the farms and towns of Ohio, Indiana, Montana, and all the other Federal land states. Follow the history of this land, how it 'came to be', learn the ways it could move from Uncle Sam to 'Uncle Jake' and discover what these records offer the genealogist.

S. Elizabeth Ross presents on many topics, with special interest in census & land records, research & organizational techniques. She founded and runs "2nd Saturday Genealogy", is secretary for NIGRAA, and is President of ClanRossAmerica. She indexed "The History of Belle-Rive & Dahlgren, IL" (1998, available on-line). Her family tree includes 1890 German immigrants to Chicago, early Scots-Irish, Civil War, Revolutionary War & Mayflower folk.

You may visit the organization web page at:

www.CAGGNI.org

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

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

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Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON MARCH 8, 2016

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, March 8, 2016.

We will have another “break-out” session for our gathering on March 8, 2016. 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 March 8, 2016.

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 – FAMILYSEARCH 2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated December 31, 2015.



The FamilySearch Blog has published an article that describes the major accomplishments of the organization during the past year. One that caught my eye was about RootsTech 2015. The conference attracted a record 300,000 attendees in person, online, and through local post-Family Discovery Day events.

Other items mentioned include two new Family Discovery Centers. Around the world, 319 camera teams — an increase of 11 percent — digitally preserved over 122 million records in 45 countries, and 304,000 online volunteer indexers helped make them searchable.

Some organizations have the fear that if they digitize the records they hold and place them online, fewer and fewer people will visit in person. The experience of FamilySearch has proven to be the opposite. As the organization continues to place millions of records online every year, a 25 percent increase in attendance at these local libraries was noted during 2015. Online, FamilySearch.org saw 291,806 visitors daily — an increase of 19 percent.

You can read this and a lot more at <https://goo.gl/BBVmMa>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

I always enjoy seeing highlights on a year-end basis for the various research sites that many genealogists tap into. We often just access these wonderful resources like robots and do not have a feel for all that is taking place behind the scenes to make your research experience successful and enjoyable.

The above article published by Dick Eastman raises a statistic that I honestly probably do not even think about. And that is the statistic on the number of camera crews that are engaged all over the world in capturing images of original documents that ultimately find their way to microfilm and digital imaging which ultimately leads to indexing and linked images for our discoveries. I had no idea there were 319 camera crews filming among 45 countries. Just think, as researchers we will have future access to 122 million more records because of the efforts of these camera crews. This is where it all starts. Thank you film crews! I do wish the list of countries was identified so I can see if the countries of my ancestors are included. Who knows, the newly captured records could allow me to make major research breakthroughs.

I did look at the material that is linked. It is amazing to me to see such statistics. Statistics such as:

- 1.1 billion records in the online Family Trees at FamilySearch
- 2.47 million contributors to the online Family Trees
- 120,000 new contributors in 2015 to Family Trees
- 5.31 BILLION searchable records at FamilySearch
- 110 million added indexed records done in 2015
- 122 million images published in 2015
- 304,000 volunteers engaged in indexing in 2015
- 9 million hours of time contributed by indexer volunteers
- 2,027 Family History Centers in the United States in 2015 experiencing a 25% increase in onsite attendance from the previous year.
- 291,000 site visits per day average to FamilySearch in 2015 representing an increase of 19% from the previous year.
- Dynamic record hints were added through the Search feature at FamilySearch.org to aid patrons in making new research discoveries. The hints are more plentiful as they comb through the mountain of new historic records added weekly to the site from its global records preservation efforts, and the interface has been improved to easily follow through with or dismiss hints. Over 670 million new patron hints were generated during the past year.
- RootsTech 2015, a global family history event held in Salt Lake City, Utah, and hosted by FamilySearch, uses technology and fun experiences to expand family connections. It attracted a record 300,000 attendees in person, online, and through local post-Family Discovery Day events.

Hopefully you can read the full article from the link above. It is just mind-boggling to get a numerical gauge for all that happens within the FamilySearch organization. Perhaps, the next time you access FamilySearch for your ancestral search, you can pause and reflect on all that FamilySearch has to offer to you and how that all came about.

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Handout #7 – 12 THINGS YOU WILL SEE FROM FAMILYSEARCH IN 2016

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated January 12, 2016.

The FamilySearch Blog has an interesting article about the organization's plans for 2016. The article states:



FamilySearch is headed towards another innovative year as it streamlines online accessibility and provides increased family discovery experiences. New developments in 2016 will focus on 5 areas.

- Family Tree
- Memories
- Discovery
- Records
- Help

Here are 12 new FamilySearch.org changes and additions patrons can expect in 2016:

You can read the rest of the article at: <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/12-familysearch-2016>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Looking back on recent accomplishments is always a nice thing to see. But taking out the crystal ball and making predictions as to what new things can be expected from FamilySearch in 2016 is even better!

The article above and the link to the full article will allow you to see what new things will be on the FamilySearch horizon for 2016.

I highly recommend looking at the full article for your enjoyment. If you are a big FamilySearch participant to the fullest degree, then these items will be of more interest to you.

Here is a summarized list of bullet points on what you can expect in 2016 from FamilySearch:

- *The free Family Tree, used for building and collaborating on your family history, will be more robust and dramatically faster.*

- *Improved guidance will help users achieve family history goals or provide direction when and where they need it.*
- *A new relationship feature will enable you to easily identify how you are related to people in the Family Tree.*
- *More user-friendly search capabilities will provide less duplication, better search results, and more insight at a glance across the many record sources on FamilySearch.org*
- *The process of adding family photos, stories, documents, and audio files will be easier.*
- *A dynamic, personalized home page will help you find more family information.*
- *Partners will be offering more exciting third-party products and apps integrated into the content of FamilySearch.*
- *More digital camera teams will be added to preserve historic records and make them accessible online. There are 319 digital camera teams producing 125 million images per year currently. Additional cameras in 2016 will focus on more international records.*
- *More mobile apps on IOS and Android platforms will become available through FamilySearch.*
- *A new, web-based tool will allow more volunteers to help index more historic records online from any web-enabled tablet or computer. This will also help engage more foreign language volunteers needed to index a growing tide of new international historic records.*
- *RootsTech, a global event hosted by FamilySearch, will expand its streaming audience and provide recorded, useable content to reach more people worldwide.*
- *New developments will encourage younger patrons to participate in family history. Building from the base created by family historians and older patrons, there will be an added emphasis on attracting youth.*

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Handout #8 – ILLINOIS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTERS ONLINE FOR FREE

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated January 18, 2016.



The Illinois State Genealogical Society's latest "Newsletter" (January/February 2016) and previous issues also are now available free on the ISGS website at www.ilgensoc.org. Most genealogists will find this publication interesting — even those without Illinois ancestors.

For example, the schedule of webinars on the second Tuesday of each month — free online lectures — includes several topics with wide appeal. You can articles from a number of different authors in the newsletter.

Check it out at: http://www.ilgensoc.org/mo_newsletter.php.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Many of us may be more connected to a more local genealogical organization as members. I am a member of the Polish Genealogical Society of America. I can participate with them locally. Many of you may be members of the Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois, commonly known as CAGGI. Perhaps we are not connected to state societies or national societies. If we are not participants with a larger geographic genealogical society such as at the state level or the national level, we often get out of touch with where other genealogical information can be obtained.

In this case the Illinois State Genealogical Society is making available access to its electronic newsletters for free via part of the website. The newsletters cover the years 2008 to 2015, plus the most recent one for January 2016. The newsletters are published in the months of January, March, May, July, September and November each year. These newsletters are in PDF format and generally seem to run about 25 to 30 pages in length. Embedded in the PDF format are electronic links that allow you to access other material.

Some of the things you could expect to see in these newsletters are:

- President's Column
- Book Reviews
- New Members List
- Volunteer Opportunities

- *Upcoming Conference News*
- *Webinars Offered by the Society*
- *Governing Board Meeting Schedule*
- *Calendar of Genealogy Events*
- *Tips*
- *Resources*

I have browsed through a few of them and find them to be very insightful on niche topics within the state of Illinois. I have also seen that usually within each issue is an article that provides some good research tip information on a topic that might not be normally on your radar.

The Illinois State Genealogical Society offers a wonderful series of webinars each month on the 2nd Tuesday evening of the month. Anyone can participate on these "live" webinar dates. For these that are "live" you do not have to be a member of the society. However, the society also makes these webinars available within their archives once the program has completed its live debut. Access to these webinars requires you to be a society member. You will find information in the newsletter on how to go about registering for one of these webinars.

You can also find lots and lots of links to genealogical references that you can also explore. It is well-worth exploring one of these newsletters.

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Handout #9 – “BEWARE OF ONLINE FAMILY TREES”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the December/January 2016, Volume 10, Number 5 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that a very good article in this issue that is applicable to just about all of us is one titled “Beware of Online Family Trees”. The author of the article is George G. Morgan.

While online family trees may be an incredible resource, the researcher must be critically aware and wary of what is made available online as to accuracy. For all you know the individual in a family tree you connect with may in fact be the totally wrong person for your family tree. You have to exercise caution and use these as a starting point to connect to your own research. You must continue further investigation using the hopefully provided citations to verify the source material yourself if you are unfamiliar with it.

Family trees are uploaded generally to make a connection to other researchers having the same family tree connection but at perhaps different levels. As more and more cousins knock on your door or you knock on their door, you start collaborating and expanding even more information for your now joint family tree.

You can find family trees at a variety of locations, some that you are very familiar with and others that you perhaps may never have even heard of. The author notes the following places to find family trees:

- Ancestry.com
- FamilySearch.org
- Findmypast.com
- JewishGen.org
- MyHeritage.com
- RootsWeb.com
- Geni.com
- Mocavo.com
- WorldVitalRecords.com in the U.S.
- FamilyHistory.uk.com and GenesReunited.com in the UK
- Even consider finding these at FindAGrave.com and BillionGraves.com

The author notes that there are individuals who can best be categorized as “name collectors” who only seem interested in creating “large” family trees. They are almost non-researchers just adding more and more without verifying any of the data as to accuracy and appropriateness for their own tree.

Name collectors rarely provide documentation or citation material. When citations happen it may be because in Ancestry.com links the image and the source citation to the ancestor in the tree. Things can be right just by copying in this case! **When you see these trees that are missing citation information, consider that a warning for yourself.** You need to dig a little deeper to find some evidence that supports this family connection to yourself. And if and when you do find evidence to support the individual, then take the time to now include a citation of the resource that shows this.

Here are some of the types of errors you may encounter that are already in family trees that you do not verify in some manner as noted by the author:

- Spelling errors
- **Transpositions of numbers in dates**
- Using modern place names and jurisdictions instead of historical ones appropriate to the time.
- **Perhaps two of the same named people were discovered and the wrong person is included in the tree**
- Transcription errors from original documents could have occurred, including capitalization, abbreviation and punctuation errors. **Transcription should be exactly as seen including all of the above items.** If you saw a document containing "Jno." As a shortened name, it may or may not mean "John". It could mean "Jonathan". **If you saw a listing of names separated by a comma and then saw the name "Mary Margaret" without a common separating you may think the person named is "Mary Margaret" when in fact the comma was inadvertently in the original thus giving you two names "Mary" and "Margaret".** Or you may actually encounter the major cause of errors in transcription and that being the inability to read what was actually written. Maybe you see a name that was transcribed as "Amaria" when in fact if you took a look at the original you would see it as "Amanda". All of these errors will lead you down the wrong path with misnamed individuals embedded in a transcription. Original resources must be examined or you just perpetuate the errors forever by using them from another tree.
- **Abstracts that are contained in online family trees can be very problematic** because they are typically nothing more than a description of the contents of the original. **What if the person making the abstract did not include all the named individuals from the record? What if it is an abstract of a marriage record naming only the bride and groom and omitting the witnesses or the place of the marriage?**
- **Indexing errors flow into family tree data simply because of the inability of the indexer to correctly read the spelling as they see it.** This is compounded when an indexer is indexing data in a language or ethnicity he may not be familiar with. As a Polish researcher I may be familiar with Polish naming convention where I see many names end in "ski". Someone not familiar

with that could read "ski" as something else and index different letters.

- Family stories contained in uploaded family trees can be wrought with errors. The author notes the example of simply telling a story to one person and then that person tells it to a 2nd. The 2nd tells it to a 3rd, the 3rd to a 4th and you know where this is going. By the time the story ends at the last person chances are it is not even close to the original. Maybe some parts are still accurate. Verification is critical.
- Photos identified for a named individual may be flat out incorrect. This is really up for grabs because you have no way to know if the person named in the photo is really the person. Try to verify with other family members. Maybe there is more on the photo on the back that has not been made known.

Basically, this all comes down to good research by a good researcher that takes the time to document via citations where discoveries were made. If all of this done at the very start of an uploaded tree, then there is hope for others that access this to be able to check out some of the citations to see if they discover the same material as the original researcher did. But the reality of today is that uploaded online family trees are just copied and used by other researchers over and over, often without citations. Errors just get perpetuated to each next individual that uses the original family tree that is both in error and not cited.

Consider the data in online family trees as "clues" and "pointers". You are a great researcher. Check out a few of the facts stated in these trees, hopefully via citations that exist, but if not you may have to do some original work based on your own research skills.

It is easy to copy and paste. Plus, you are excited that you have new data to expand your own family line. But isn't it better to be correct with what you are adding rather than have incorrect data in your newly expanded tree that will just start leading you down the wrong the path with your future research efforts.

I highly recommend that everyone make a personal copy of this article. George Morgan is an outstanding genealogist. This article really hits home. A copy of it should be right in front of you the next time you are going to use some data from an online tree. Be skeptical no matter how well researched the data is.

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Handout #10 – “OVERSEAS NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the December/January 2016, Volume 10, Number 5 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled “Overseas Newspaper Archives”. The author of the article is David A. Norris. The author also notes in the title description that access to this data is free and online.

The digitization of newspapers has been an incredible boon for genealogy researchers. Just think, newspapers of the past were THE method for how information made its way to the public. There were no phones or computers or email or internet! So if something happened to an ancestor it was quite possible that it became the news of the day. Maybe it was not so glitzy. Maybe an ancestor did nothing more than place an advertisement to sell something via the classifieds. Or perhaps the sad news of the death of an ancestor might be found. Or better yet, the happy news of an ancestor visiting from another state to be with a loved one might be written up.

Many of us focus on these digital miracles for newspapers in the U.S. But the same holds true for digital newspaper data that exists for locations outside of the U.S. Perhaps an ancestor of yours originated from Germany or Norway or other countries. Your research may be picking up their trail once they were in the U.S. But you can possibly go deeper by using these overseas digital newspapers to see what you can discover. The language issue might be a challenge but once you get the hang of becoming familiar with some keywords you could still search these foreign newspapers for surnames and then note where they occur. Some of these papers even allow you to access the text and bring it into Google for it to possibly translate for you.

I thought I would just give you a listing of the newspapers identified in this article for you to research further. Here are the newspapers and the links mentioned in the article in the non-alphabetical way as appeared in the article:

- The London Gazette @ www.thegazette.co.uk
 - Newspaper of Britain since 1665
 - Often considered a governmental newspapers in which information such as appointments, wills, probates, bankruptcies etc. were made
- Gaceta de Madrid now called Boletin Oficial del Estado @ www.boe.es/buscar/gazeta.php
 - Goes back 1661 to 1959
- Gazette de France @ <http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/cb32780022t/date>
 - Began in 1631
 - Issues from 1631 to 1792 can be browsed or searched by word.

- There is an English version of the site but the original material is still in French
- Austria
 - Austrian National Library's "Austrian Newspapers Online Project" @ <http://anno.onb.ac.at>
 - Includes 300,000 issues from 1689 to 1918 and 1938 to 1944; plans to add 1919 to 1937.
 - Site is in German but not that difficult to navigate; word "suche" means "search".
 - Can search the entire collection or select a certain location.
 - You can download the material to PDF or convert it to text.
- Belgium
 - Belgica from the Royal Library of Belgium @ http://belgica.kbr.be/fr/coll/jour/jour_fr.html
- France
 - "Les Principaux Quotidiens" from the National Library of France's Gallica site @ <http://gallica.bnf.fr/html/presse-et-revues/les-principaux-quotidiens>
- Germany
 - ZEFYS from the Staatsbibliothek du Berlin offers an English language search page @ <http://zefys.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de>
 - Over 270,000 newspapers are available
- Netherlands
 - Delpher offers digitized Dutch historical material @ www.delpher.nl/nl/kranten
 - Eight million newspaper pages covering 1668 to 1995
 - Site instructions in Dutch
 - Text searches are possible
- Norway
 - National Library of Norway offers digitized newspaper material @ www.nb.no/nbsok/search.nbdigital?lang=no
 - Site instructions are in Norwegian
- Spain
 - Biblioteca Virtual de Prensa Historica @ <http://prensahistorica.mcu.es>
 - La Hemeroteca Digital @ <http://hemerotecadigital.bne.es/index.vm>
- Sweden
 - National Library of Sweden offers some word-searchable newspapers @ <http://magasin.kb.se:8080/searchinterface>
- Switzerland
 - L'Express and L'Impartial archives can be searched @ www.lexpressarchives.ch and www.limpartialarchives.ch
 - Sites are in French but navigation is easy and both can be searched with keywords.
- Wales
 - "Welsh Newspapers Online" from the National Library of Wales @ <http://newspapers.library.wales>

- Over 1 million newspaper pages before 1919
- Caribbean
 - Caribbean Digital Newspaper Library @ <http://dloc.com/cndl>
- Mexico
 - "Hemeroteca Digital de Mexico" from the National Library of Mexico @ www.hndm.unam.mx/index.php/es
- Australia
 - National Library of Australia's Trove @ <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper?q>
 - Has 18 million newspaper pages, including 180 million articles
- New Zealand
 - National Library of New Zealand's Papers Past site @ <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast>

As you can see, the article provided access to many library links that contain these digital newspapers from many countries.

See if you can connect any research on ancestors into the U.S. to any of these newspapers in the country of origin for a particular ancestor.

The author also suggested that some of the sites might have an "English" flag on the site that allows you to read the site in English. Look for that. Additionally, have Google up and use it as a dictionary for foreign word on any of these sites. The sites may have the same appearance as your familiar English language sites. Search box, results lists, narrowing your search capability. It won't take long before the words for that language will become second nature.

When you can do a keyword search is the time to try a surname or a town name that you may already know about from your previous research. You may be able to convert digital words to text which you can then use in such services within Google to translate.

Even if your country is not noted in the above list, perhaps you can try searching their national library to see if perhaps they have something or are developing something.

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