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March 8, 2016 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our March 8, 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 APRIL 2, 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, April 2, 2016. The program for the morning is titled **"Get the Scoop: Interviewing to Gather Family Stories"**. The speaker for the morning will be **Diane Dassow**.

Diane Dassow, founder of and personal historian for Binding Legacies, grew up in Chicago and resides in Lombard, Illinois. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mundelein College (now affiliated with Loyola University, Chicago), and an MBA degree from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management. Diane had a successful career in management before turning to her childhood love of writing. As a former freelance writer, a columnist and correspondent for the Daily Herald, and since 2004 as a personal historian, Diane has interviewed hundreds of people for personal histories, newspaper features, and newsletter articles. She has been told she has a talent for conducting comfortable, professional, and meaningful interview sessions and for bringing stories to life on the written page. She has written more than thirty books in the category of privately-published personal history, and she has edited many more manuscripts for other writers. Her memoir piece, "One Small Step," was published (2009) in the anthology titled My Words Are Gonna Linger: The Art of Personal History. Diane gives presentations and conducts workshops on various facets of personal history and genealogy. She is an active member of and has held past board memberships in the Association of Personal Historians (APH) and its Chicago Chapter, as well as the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Lombard Area Branch. She has received Honorable Mentions for her volunteer newsletter editorial work for Kiwanis International and the PTA.

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 APRIL 20, 2016; ANNUAL CONFERENCE
FOR THE SOCIETY WILL TAKE PLACE ON MARCH 12, 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, April 20, 2016. The program scheduled for that evening is **"Genetic Genealogy"**. The speaker for the program will be **Robert Sliwinski**.

There is no regular society program during the month of March because the society will be having its Annual All-Day Conference on Saturday, March 12, 2016. The program will take place at the NIU Conference Center at 1120 East Diehl Rd. in Naperville, IL. Please visit the society's portion of their website that addresses the 2015 Conference at:

<http://www.dcgs.org/cpage.php?pt=116>

By the time you read this you will only have a short window to register. The society has announced that they were limiting attendance to the first 300 registered. If you do not pre-register, you can still take a chance and be a "walk-in" on the day of the event but it would be better for you to check in advance if the 300 person registration limit has been achieved. Otherwise, you would not be accepted as a "walk-in".

You can contact the society through their main website address below. They have a "Contact Us" portion on their site in the left sidebar.

You may visit the society's web page at:

www.dcgs.org

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

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

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

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGGNI) NEXT PROGRAM ON MARCH 19, 2016 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, March 19, 2016 at the Schaumburg Township District Library in Schaumburg, IL. The program scheduled for this day is **"What's New in Technology"**. The speaker will be **Ed Rosenthal**.

Ed Rosenthal will present his very popular annual survey of emerging technologies. Sharing of the insights he gains from keeping tabs on new developments in the computing and digital imaging scenes will provide us all with a glimpse of what new tools will soon be available to leverage in our favorite obsession—genealogy!

You won't want to miss this program.

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 APRIL 12, 2016

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, April 12, 2016.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be Debra Dudek. Debra will present a program titled "What's the Buzz About BillionGraves?".

What's the Buzz About BillionGraves? - BillionGraves is contending to be the top cemetery search site on the web. Toting a hot new app and an easy interface, BillionGraves is making cemetery transcription projects and research information more accessible to tech-friendly users. Get a look at this site as a researcher, transcriber, and in-the-field data gatherer.

Debra M. Dudek is Head of Adult and Teen Services at the Fountaindale Public Library District in Bolingbrook, IL. Ms. Dudek specializes in British genealogy and technology topics. She is currently pursuing a second masters degree in Genealogical, Palaeographic & Heraldic Studies from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland.

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 and other libraries.

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Handout #6 – ANCESTRY.COM REPORTS 2015 FINANCIAL RESULTS

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated February 17, 2016.

 Ancestry.com LLC reported financial results today for the fourth quarter and full year ended December 31, 2015.

"Ancestry delivered a milestone year in 2015, including outstanding financial performance and key strategic achievements across the company," said Tim Sullivan, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ancestry.com. "Our performance was highlighted by strong, profitable growth throughout the year, featuring double-digit increases in revenue and adjusted EBITDA. On the strategic front, we delivered a greatly enhanced customer experience, launched major new content collections, grew AncestryDNA into the largest consumer genomic database and progressed on important growth initiatives internationally and in our emerging businesses. We're off to a great start in 2016, a year in which we will be focused on continuing to diversify and expand the growth profile of the company, executing well in our core businesses and investing in our future."

Amongst the highlights of today's report:

- Total revenues for the fourth quarter 2015 were \$177.6 million. Revenues increased 14.5% from \$155.2 million in the fourth quarter of 2014, driven by growth in revenues from AncestryDNA and the Company's core Ancestry websites.
- Net income (loss) for the fourth quarter of 2015 was \$13.5 million compared to a net loss of \$(7.5) million in the fourth quarter of 2014. For the full year 2015, net income was \$29.4 million compared to a net loss of \$(18.7) million for the full year of 2014.

The full report from Ancestry.com LLC may be found at <http://goo.gl/4TeyVb>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Many of us rely on the data and the services that come under the umbrella of Ancestry.com. Whether you are a personal subscriber to the service or use the product Ancestry Library Edition in a library, so much of our advancements in research come through all of this data. For as great as the data is for researchers, we must always remember that Ancestry.com is a business. Businesses are dependent on making money, or as they say, profits. A business can go through occasional downturns and lose money, but it ultimately must be a profitable business routinely.

When you take a look at the "business" of Ancestry.com, these are some of the items you can note in the financial reports for 2015:

- For the full year 2015, total revenues were \$683.1 million, with an increase in revenues of 10.3% from \$619.5 million for the full year of 2014.
- For the full year 2015, net income was \$29.4 million compared to a net loss of \$(18.7) million for the full year of 2014
- For the full year 2015, free cash flow totaled \$124.8 million compared to \$93.7 million for the full year 2014.
- Subscribers of Ancestry websites totaled approximately 2,264,000 as of December 31, 2015, compared to 2,115,000 as of December 31, 2014.
- The Company added over 1.7 billion new records during 2015.
- AncestryDNA sold approximately one million kits in 2015 and now has a database with DNA samples from 1.5 million people.
- Ancestry Academy, New Ancestor Discoveries and a beta launch of Ancestry Health were introduced in 2015.

You see some healthy statistics in the reports. It is nice from a business point to see revenue growing year to year. For some businesses that is difficult even in this somewhat improved economic environment we are in.

As to subscribers, it appears that Ancestry.com added about 150,000 new subscribers by the end of 2015. That is also a healthy sign. For many of us, we are always looking to discover more ancestral information from within Ancestry.com. That is why it is nice to see that Ancestry.com added 1.7 billion records. We now have that much more of a chance to make discoveries when these additional records have been added. Plus, sometimes I then rationalize that what we pay for the service has value because there are so many more records included for the cost of our subscription.

It also looks that over and above searching databases, much of Ancestry's income can also be attributed to the added new services over and above database searches. AncestryDNA and Ancestry Academy are contributing to this added revenue stream for Ancestry.

Click on the link contained in the original Dick Eastman post to see even more details and financial reports for Ancestry.com. A "healthy" Ancestry.com bodes well for all of its subscribers. I hope that the future for Ancestry.com is even rosier.

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Handout #7 – ANCESTRY.COM TO LAUNCH IRISH CATHOLIC REGISTERS ONLINE

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated February 11, 2016.

The following announcement was written by Ancestry.com:

- Ireland Catholic Parish Registers to launch in March
- 10 million records will help create the largest collection of Irish registers available online
- Collection covers the period 1740 – 1900
- Baptism, Marriage and Burial records available

 More than 10 million Catholic Parish records from Ireland are to be published online by [Ancestry](http://Ancestry.com), the world's largest family history resource. The collection means that Ancestry will have over 44 million Irish records and will provide the largest collection of Irish Catholic parish records available online.

The collection is made up of Baptism, Marriage and Burial records from over 1,000 Catholic parishes across the whole of the island of Ireland – both in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Baptism and Marriage records make up the majority of the collection and Burial records can be found primarily for parishes in the northern regions.

Ancestry has indexed records from over 3,500 parish registers. This is the first time that the collection has been indexed with the images linked online.

John Slyne, VP, International Operations at Ancestry comments: "The Ireland Catholic Parish Registers is the single most important collection needed to trace Roman Catholic ancestors in Ireland in the 1800s and we are delighted to make it available through Ancestry. Providing the very best Irish records to our members is important to us and this collection helps us do that, taking the total number of Irish records to over 44 million. It also means we continue to provide the largest online collection of Irish Catholic parish records available anywhere which is good for those in Ireland and also those across the World with Irish roots.

The collection is set to go live on Ancestry in March 2016.

ABOUT ANCESTRY

[Ancestry](http://Ancestry.com) is the world's largest online family history resource with more than 2 million paying subscribers across all its websites. More than 16 billion records have been added, and users have created more than 70 million family trees to the core Ancestry websites, including its flagship site <http://www.ancestry.com> and its affiliated international websites.

Ancestry operates a suite of online family history brands, including Archives.com, Fold3.com, Newspapers.com, and offers the AncestryDNA product, sold by its subsidiary, Ancestry International DNA, LLC, all of which are designed to empower people to discover, preserve and share their family history.

Comments by Tony Kierna

The National Library of Ireland was the original source for this data. You can see information about these records from the National Library of Ireland here <http://registers.nli.ie/>. There must be some arrangement between the National Library of Ireland and Ancestry.com for this data to become available also within Ancestry.com.

One major difference between the original posted images of these Catholic Parish records is that the images of the records were only available on a parish by parish basis in the National Library of Ireland data and were not searchable. It appears that Ancestry.com will now offer this data as an indexed searchable database that will link the search results to the image itself.

I made a blog post about these records when they first became available in non-searchable image only data. You can look at my blog post at <https://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com/2015/07/29/national-library-of-ireland-adds-catholic-parish-registers-online-for-free-that-can-go-back-as-far-as-the-1740s-use-the-maps-at-the-site-to-find-parishes-within-ireland-when-you-do-not-know-the-paris/>.

As researchers, we always like to see searchable online databases rather than just images of ledger books showing these records. When we only see images, you can certainly still make your discoveries provided you have some research evidence that may point you to a geographic location such as a parish. Looking at these un-indexed images is just like looking at an online microfilm. This is often slow, tedious research that may or may not get you discoveries.

If you have already used the registers in un-indexed format from the National Library of Ireland, you know how tedious the research process can be. Hopefully, your efforts were rewarded. Starting sometime in March 2016, 44 million of these records will be made available from within Ancestry.com in an indexed, searchable database that will link your results to the images of the actual records. Sounds like something to really look forward to if you are doing Irish Catholic research in March 2016!

As we approach March, you can always visit the Ancestry.com blog at <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/> to see if they make the announcement on when the data is available. You can also just look at the Ancestry.com Card Catalog as we get into March to see if the database has been added. I don't know if it will be one database or a series of databases. By looking at the Ancestry Card Catalog at <http://search.ancestry.com/search/cardcatalog.aspx#ccat=hc%3D25%26dbSort%3D1%26sbo%3D1%26> you can select from the "Sort By" selection on the right side for "Date Added" to discover the most recently added databases.

You may also hear of this availability through one of my own blog posts that I usually do on "What's New at Ancestry.com". Usually major announcements are made by Ancestry.com regarding "new content" from within Ancestry.com YouTube videos that

I report on. I am sure the release of these 44 million records will fall under one of those announcements by Ancestry.com.

For those doing Irish Catholic research, your ship has almost come in. What a great set of records to add to your arsenal of research tools to advance your research efforts.

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Handout #8 – FAMILY TREE MAKER TO BE CONTINUED WITH MORE OPTIONS THAN EVER BEFORE

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated February 2, 2016.

The above headline should be published in a very large font. Ancestry, Inc., the publisher of Family Tree Maker genealogy software, today announced that the program will not be "retired" after all. Instead, Ancestry, Inc. has sold the program to another company that plans to maintain it and develop it further. In addition, Ancestry, Inc. also plans to connect Ancestry with the RootsMagic software by the end of 2016. This should be a delightful announcement for the many users of RootsMagic.

The following was written by Kendall Hulet of Ancestry, Inc.:

New Family Tree Maker Options

Family Tree Maker

by ancestry.com Since our Family Tree Maker announcement last December, we have continued to actively explore ways to develop and support Family Tree Maker and ensure you have choices to preserve your work in ways that matter to you.

Today, I am pleased to announce two options for desktop software that will work with Ancestry.

Software MacKiev

Software MacKiev, with whom we have a long-standing relationship, is acquiring the Family Tree Maker software line as publisher for both Mac and Windows versions. Software MacKiev has been the developer of Family Tree Maker for Mac for more than six years and is thrilled at the opportunity to publish future versions of Family Tree Maker for Mac and Windows.

This new agreement means you will receive software updates and new versions from Software MacKiev, and have the ability to purchase new versions of Family Tree Maker from Software MacKiev as they are released. You will have continued access to Ancestry Hints, Ancestry searches, and be able to save your tree on Ancestry with Family Tree Maker moving forward.

RootsMagic

We have made an agreement with RootsMagic, a leading genealogy desktop software program publisher, to connect Ancestry with the RootsMagic software by the end of 2016. With this new relationship, RootsMagic can serve as your desktop family tree software, while having access to Ancestry hints, Ancestry searches, and the ability to save your tree on Ancestry.

We have heard your concerns and are working to provide the solutions you requested. These new agreements will make it possible to preserve your work on Ancestry and Family Tree Maker and enable future features and benefits to help you discover your family history. **Be assured that Ancestry, in cooperation with Software MacKiev and RootsMagic, will continue to support you as you discover your family history.**

We ask for your patience as we work diligently through all the details to make these solutions available. Be sure to check back on our blog as we share more information about Family Tree Maker in the next few months.

For more information on Software MacKiev and RootsMagic, click below:

- Software MacKiev: <http://www.mackiev.com/>
- RootsMagic: <http://www.rootsmagic.com/>

Comments by Tony Kierna

OK, all of you Family Tree Maker users who thought the end of the world was approaching, you can now breathe again and get some color in your face.

Ancestry.com has been able to actually make a sale of the product to the company that was actually doing the developmental work for Ancestry.com all along on Family Tree Maker. *With the sale of the product to MacKiev, you can now expect that maintenance of the product and future software development will continue. One cynical thought is that if the product will not be top notch or profitable, Family Tree Maker users can be in the same bind at a future date. That is what happens in the world of software. You are either successful or not. Think of the Master Genealogist software and Personal Ancestral File. These were formerly vibrant software developers that basically ended their business when they felt it was no longer profitable to continue.*

But for this moment, you can rejoice knowing that you can continue to use the lineage desktop software you have become familiar with and have entered all your data into.

It is also great to hear that under MacKiev, Family Tree Maker users can still continue business as usual. *You can expect software development in the future and new versions of the popular program. You will have continued access to Ancestry Hints, Ancestry searches, and be able to save your tree on Ancestry with Family Tree Maker moving forward.*

Additionally, if you are currently a RootsMagic lineage desktop user, your ship has also come in. *RootsMagic will by the end of 2016 incorporate into its software the ability to interact with Ancestry.com in the same manner that Family Tree Maker was able to.* **With this new relationship, RootsMagic can serve as your desktop family tree software, while having access to Ancestry hints, Ancestry searches, and the ability to save your tree on Ancestry.** *If you wanted to try a new desktop lineage program and not lose the ability to interact with Ancestry.com, you can now do so through RootsMagic by the end of 2016.* *RootsMagic has been known as being a very*

quality lineage desktop product. It will become even more enhanced with the ability to interact with Ancestry.com.

This is the world we live in. You like a product and use it wholeheartedly. Then the product disappears and you are left to re-invent your data keeping habits with new software. Not an experience we like to pursue to often. But they happen. **In this case Family Tree Makers users got a reprieve and a bonus at that with the addition of RootsMagic developing the ability to interact with Ancestry.com as Family Tree Maker did.**

Reprieves don't always happen. Enjoy this one.

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Handout #9 – “MOVING WEST”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the February/March 2016, Volume 10, Number 6 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought a good article in this issue is one titled “Moving West”. The author of the article is Carol Richey.

America’s history from the start has been one of being mobile with hopeful people. And since our country was basically founded and developed on the east coast of the United States, it was always looked upon as something better in terms of land and opportunities existed “west” of where that person was. Horace Greeley summed it up with his famous phrase, “Go west, young man”.

Even as colonial development progressed and populations increased, at some point settlers often were always looking for the opportunity to move on. Land itself was the “cash” crop of the government. The government basically acquired all the lands of the country and used it as public domain under its control. This was often how the government funded itself. Simply sell land in organized fashion as population increased and the desire to move out west grew more and more by the decade.

There were certain key developments that occurred in a relatively short period of time that spurred on settlement of the “west” that was the territory west of the Appalachian Mountains in the east. These were:

- Mountain men, trappers and fur traders explored the western mountains
- The Louisiana Purchase and the additional land added to the forming country. Exploration of these added lands via the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1803 added interest in settling these lands.
- The 1846 declaration of war against Mexico as well as the Great Mormon Migration at this time had more and more individuals exposed to these western lands.
- The discovery of gold in California in 1848 fueled the fire for even more migration to an area that was thought could make you rich.
- The 1862 Homestead Exemption Act encouraged settling of these vast areas of land west of the Mississippi. Public Domain land was offered in 160 acre increments to citizens over age 21 that were the head of a household. In order to gain full ownership of the land they had to improve the land they received by building a structure on it, living on the land and farming the land for a 5 year period. If they successfully completed the requirements, the deed to the land was turned over to them.
- Creation of the Transcontinental Railroad in the 1869 period.

In addition to these developments, individuals generally move from one location to another for three basic reasons:

- Conditions at home
- Ease of travel
- Attractiveness of the region

The same can be said for the great migrations of those originally living in Europe or other continents and deciding to make a life change by moving to the United States.

Everyone did not just move to the wide open spaces. Large cities became the cornerstones of many parts of the western region. In fact, even as late as 1900, fully 50% of the population in the western region was already living in large cities.

The author does note that there are many online sources the researcher can use to enhance their research on ancestors that may have been involved in these western migrations. Here are 6 Online resources to consider to research your westerly migrating ancestors:

- **Pioneer and Early Settler Indexes and Databases**
 - For those with a Kansas connection, check the *Forgotten Settlers of Kansas (28 volumes)* online at www.kcgs.us/forgot.htm. You can discover certificate applications, pedigree charts and a searchable index.
 - To find societies that honor pioneers and first families, check out Cyndi's List at www.cyndislist.com/societies/lineage/first-families.
 - Check records of the Daughters of the American Revolution for subgroups such as the California Daughters of the American Revolution via a 27 volume resource titled *Records of the Families of the California Pioneers* at www.cagenweb.com/cpl/dar1.htm. Also use another part of the DAR resource at http://services.dar.org/Public/DAR_Research/search/?Tab_ID=6.
 - Oregon State Archives at <http://sos.oregon.gov/archives/Pages/records.aspx>.
 - Ancestry.com offers a database titled *California Pioneers, 1542-1848* at <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1040>.
- **Migration Databases and Websites**
 - According to trail historian Merrill J. Mattes in *Platte River Road Narratives*, one out of every 250 emigrants left a written record of some kind.
 - Consider personal diaries that may have been created by your ancestors. Consider BYU's *Trails of Hope: Overland Diaries and Letters, 1846-1869* at <http://overlandtrails.lib.byu.edu>.

- Consider the Oregon-California Trails Association at www.octa-trails.org. Also www.paper-trail.org/.
- If you have Mormon ancestors consider FamilySearch's *Mormon Migration Database, 1840-1932* at <http://familysearch.org/search/collection/2365248>. For firsthand accounts visit <http://mormonmigration.lib.byu.edu>.
- **Federal, State and Territorial Census Records**
 - The 1850 US Census was the first noting individuals within a family group. The 1900-1940 censuses can help you identify localities where other records can be researched as ancestors migrated and noted this in their census responses.
 - Idaho State Historical Society has created a list of names of individuals that were living in Idaho between 1885 and 1894. You can find this at www.history.idaho.gov/idaho-1890-reconstructed-census.
 - Look for territory and state census data over and above US Census data. Minnesota has 10 state census record collections from 1849 to 1905. You can find these at <http://people.mnhs.org/census>.
 - Oklahoma has an 1890 Oklahoma Territory Census at www.okhistory.org/research/1890.
- **Vital Records**
 - Vital Records are often a missing piece of this puzzle because they simply were not required by governmental bodies during much of the time of this westward migration. Discoveries may be hot or miss.
 - Try the *Western States Marriage Records Index* at <http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernStates/search.cfm>. It has about 900,000 marriage records.
 - Washington State Digital Archives has nearly 70 million searchable records online at <http://digitalarchives.wa.gov/Home>.
 - Missouri Digital Heritage has about 9 million records online at www.sos.mo.gov/mdh.
- **Homestead Records**
 - Heads of Households, 21 and over who were citizens, could apply to gain possession of 160 acres of Public Domain land as a result of the 1862 Homestead Act. They had to improve the land, live on it, farm it, build a house etc. After 5 years they could prove they had done the requirements and then gain full ownership of the land. About 270 million acres of land came under this Act in 30 states. About 40% of claimants to the land were successful and obtained ownership.
 - Use the Bureau of Land Management's Land Patent Site at www.glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx.

- o Efforts are underway to digitize the 800,000 homestead records from 200 land offices. Those from Nebraska have been digitized and can be found at Fold3 at www.fold3.com/title_650/homestead_records_ne.
- o See the Homestead National Monument of America page at www.nps.gov/home/historyculture/requesting-homestead-records.htm for requesting homestead records.

- **Biographical Resources**

- o Idaho State Historical Society offers the Idaho Biographical Index at www.history.idaho.gov/idaho-biographical-index.
- o Ancestry.com has the U.S. County History Catalog at <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3227>
- o Many archives, libraries and other organizations have extensive obituary collections. The Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center Ohio Obituary Index has about 3 million obituaries, death and marriage notices and other Ohio records from the early 1800s. You can find this at <http://index.rbhayes.org/hayes/index>.

The author concludes that while online records may be great, they are not the only records held by these archives and organizations. In other words, everything is not online and there may be great untapped paper resources to be discovered by you in your research.

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Handout #10 – “FLICKR, CULTURE AND YOUR GENEALOGY”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the February/March 2016, Volume 10, Number 6 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled “Flickr, Culture and Your Genealogy”. The author of the article is Tony Bandy.

The author notes that the “meat and potatoes” of genealogy research is the varied amount of records we can discover about our ancestors. Dates, surnames, locations, births, marriages, deaths and the like make up much of what we search for. But the main things that these pieces of data do not provide are often the stories, the history and the culture of our ancestors.

Where can you find out about the richness of the stories and the culture? The author would like us to know to consider a resource for this that we might not ever consider. And that resource is called Flickr at www.flickr.com. (That is how it is spelled!) It is an imaging service that is known as a place that anyone can upload their photos to. I even have my family pictures located at the site. More and more historical and cultural images pertaining to the era of our ancestors might be able to be found at the site. You may not necessarily discover specifics as they relate to a specific ancestor but you might be able to discover material in image form that relates to the era of your ancestors or their location.

The author gives us three reasons why Flickr is a site for us to consider searching for material far more than just regular pictures:

- **REASON 1: Scanned Documents**

- Don't just think of formal documents of our ancestors such as passports or birth certificates or the like. The author would like us to broaden that to look for material that might have been in use at the time of our ancestors. Things such as candy wrappers, bus tickets, steamship tickets. The term applied to this kind of material is known as “ephemera”.
- If you wanted to know about your ancestors that may have lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the late 1800s or early 1900s, consider using a search term in Flickr as “Pittsburgh Ephemera” or “Pittsburgh Documents”. Things that came up in the search were digitized letters, postcards, advertising flyers, maps and more.
- The author notes that this kind of searching is not the same as using a surname. You will need to spend more time reviewing the hits and see how they might connect to an ancestor living at the time in that locality.

- **REASON 2: Cultural and Historical**

- o Finding cultural and historical information brings depth to the hard data and facts we may have for a particular individual. The author gives a more contemporary example related to this. Perhaps you actually had recent ancestors that may have attended the newly opened Disneyland in the 1950s when it opened. Your living ancestors may have even shared their stories with you about the visit to this newly opened theme park of the time. Use Flickr and search for material related to the early days of Disneyland using a search term such as "vintage Disney". The author had about 6,000 hits with such a search term. Pictures about the park, rides, images of vintage napkins, placemats and other ephemera were discovered. Use this kind of logic to create other searches as they relate to your ancestors for the time they were living.

• **REASON 3: Narratives and Other Personal Information**

- o Author suggests searching Flickr for diaries and personal documents. This one may be more time consuming and trickier. Try search terms as "diaries" or "narrative" to see what you discover. Include a surname with the search or a location. Again, you may discover a diary by someone not your family connection but that might have lived in the same area as your ancestor.

The author also makes us aware of the types of searches to consider on Flickr. There are basic and advanced searches. Be creative in using search terms.

Be aware of copyright on your discoveries. Know that an image does or does not have a copyright before you decide to use it in your family tree material. Flickr does have a complete guide on each photo with the license that it is attached to, as well as contact information. If in doubt, contact the person.

Flickr has "groups" of individuals that upload images under a common "theme". Search these groups if it looks like you can discover a "theme" of interest to you is one for which a group was made e.g. "vintage 1900s images".

Don't overlook searching Flickr for material related to an ancestor or more importantly for material related to an era or time or location in which your ancestor lived.

Who would have thought that an image gathering site might help you add to an ancestral connection?

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