



HANDOUTS TABLE OF CONTENTS

April 12, 2016

<u>Handout Introduction</u>	Page 2
<u>Schaumburg Township District Library (STDL) Genealogy Blog</u>	Page 4
<u>Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society (New Name!) (NWSGS) Program for May 7, 2016</u>	Page 5
<u>DuPage County Genealogical Society (DCGS) Program for April 20, 2016</u>	Page 7
<u>Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois (CAGGNI) Program for April 16, 2016</u>	Page 8
<u>Schaumburg Township District Library (STDL) May 10, 2016 Genealogy Program</u>	Page 9
<u>New Season For "Who Do You Think You Are?" Starts April 3, 2016</u> ...	Page 10
<u>20 Year Anniversary For Cyndi's List</u>	Page 13
<u>RootsMagic Adds Direct Import Of Family Tree Maker Files</u>	Page 16
<u>"For Love and Money: Pension Laws Affecting Widows of Veterans"</u>	Page 18
<u>"Electronic Resources to Build Context"</u>	Page 21

April 12, 2016 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our April 12, 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"!

++++
++++

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 MAY 7, 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, May 7, 2016. The program for the morning is titled "Reading Between the Lines of the City Directory". The speaker for the morning will be **Teresa Steinkamp McMillin**.

This lecture encourages one to go beyond the obvious use of a city directory - locating an ancestor. The directory provides an opportunity to discover our ancestors' historical context. Pictures, advertisements, maps of the city and many more items are often included. The audience will be encouraged to understand each directory's unique qualities. Reverse directories will also be discussed. Every directory available for a given ancestor/family should be consulted. Examples will be used to illustrate various points.

Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, CG specializes in German-American and Midwest research, as well as reading German script. She has been interested in genealogy since she was a child and currently has many pleased clients. She presents quality genealogical lectures for local societies and national conferences. Teresa was the 2007 recipient of the National Genealogical Society's Home Study Course, which she has completed. She is a multi-year attendee of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy; and has taken college-level German courses. Recently, Teresa published the Guide to Hanover Military Records, 1514-1866 on Microfilm at the Family History Library. Teresa is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the National Genealogical Society, as well as many local genealogical societies. She is the webmaster for the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Teresa lives in the northwest suburbs of Chicago with her husband and two teenaged children.

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 APRIL 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.

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.

You may visit the society's web page at:

www.dcgs.org

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

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

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

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 APRIL 16, 2016 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, April 16, 2016 at the Schaumburg Township District Library in Schaumburg, IL. The program scheduled for this day is **"Mapping It: A DIY Tutorial"**. The speaker will be **Sarah A. V. Kirby**.

Maps are one of the most valuable tools a genealogist can use. But you should also make your own to both illustrate your family history and provide insight into your research. Using PowerPoint as a foundation, this talk shows you how to use it and several free resources and start building your own maps.

When you cross an aerospace engineer (a.k.a. rocket scientist) with a teacher, librarian, and genealogist, you get a wide range of knowledge and a depth of experience rarely equaled. You also get complex topics explained in everyday language with enthusiasm and excellence. She's particularly adept at explaining obscure and under-utilized resources. She has been a genealogist since 1994 and a professional since 2008.

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.

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 MAY 10, 2016

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, May 10, 2016.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be Tina Beaird. Tina will present a program titled "Mapping Your Migrating Ancestors".

Our ancestors traveled so much, if not more, than we do today. Explore what types of maps and property records exist for pinpointing your ancestor's whereabouts across the United States, from plat maps to Sanborn Fire Insurance maps to Google maps!

Tina Beaird is the Genealogy & Local History Librarian at the Plainfield Public Library. She holds a Masters of Library and Information Science degree with a specialization in Archives/Preservation from Dominican University. Tina has won multiple research and digitization grants to preserve and digitize historic documents and photographs.

Currently, Tina is an active member of the Society of American Archivists and the American Library Association. She is an Oswego Heritage Association governing board member and an Oswego Historic Preservation Commissioner.

Tina lectures at the national, state and local level on topics including genealogical research, photo preservation and archival preservation. Tina has offered professional assistance to researchers for over 12 years and occasionally, still finds time to conduct her own family research, which she has been pursuing for over twenty years.

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.

++++
++++

Handout #6 – NEW SEASON TO START AGAIN FOR “WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?” ON TLC CABLE CHANNEL

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated March 3, 2016.

The following announcement was written by the folks who produce the U.S. version of *Who Do You Think You Are?*

New season premieres Sunday, April 3 at 9/8c



The two-time Emmy nominated series WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? returns this spring to follow more of today's most beloved and iconic celebrities as they embark on personal journeys of self-discovery to trace their family trees. The series continues to deliver unbelievable stories from crucial moments in history, including a number of firsts for the series, such as a male witch hunt, and traveling to Portugal, Sweden and Ellis Island. Executive Produced by Lisa Kudrow and Dan Bucatinsky, the new season premieres Sunday, April 3 at 9/8c.

The contributors featured in the upcoming season include:

- **Scott Foley** finds a relative who risked his life for one of America's founding fathers, and an ancestor who suffered unspeakably during one of this nation's darkest times.
- **Lea Michele** nails down where her mysterious paternal ancestors came from, and learns of the dire economic circumstances they endured while trying to emigrate to the U.S.
- **Chris Noth** learns his ancestors suffered during one of the greatest catastrophes in American history, and a relative who fought in one of the bloodiest battles of all time.
- **Molly Ringwald** explores family lore of Swedish royalty which uncovers her ancestors' harrowing lives and a brave woman who forever changed her family's fate.
- **Katey Sagal** is shocked to learn of her family's Amish roots, and digs deeper as she realizes the level of dedication to their faith.
- **Aisha Tyler** tracks down her 2x great-grandfather, whose story had been lost over generations, and uncovers an astonishing tale of a prominent ancestor whose struggle to keep his illegitimate son a secret made headlines.

Ancestry, the leading family history company, is teaming up again with TLC as a sponsor of the upcoming season. As part of the show sponsorship, Ancestry provides exhaustive family history research on each of the featured celebrities to help make discoveries possible and build out the story of each episode.

The series is produced for TLC by Shed Media and Is or Isn't Entertainment, and is based on an original format created by Wall to Wall Media and Alex Graham. More information can be found at TLC.com/WDYTYA. 'Like' Who Do You Think You Are? on [Facebook.com/WDYTYA](https://www.facebook.com/WDYTYA) and follow @WDYTYA on Twitter.

About TLC

Offering remarkably relatable real-life stories without judgment, TLC shares everyday heart, humor, hope, and human connection with programming genres that include fascinating families, heartwarming transformations, and life's milestone moments. In 2015, TLC was a top 10 cable network with women and had 26 series averaging 1 million P2+ viewers or more.

TLC is a global brand available in more than 93 million homes in the US and 332 million households in 189 markets internationally. A destination online, TLC.com offers in-depth fan sites and exclusive original video content. Fans can also interact with TLC through social media on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest and @TLC on Twitter as well as On Demand services, YouTube and mobile platforms. TLC is part of Discovery Communications (NASDAQ: DISCA, DISCB, DISCK), the world's #1 pay-TV programmer reaching 3 billion cumulative subscribers in 220 countries and territories.

Comments by Tony Kierna

If you still can't get enough of those wonderful genealogy TV shows, then take a pause and prepare for a new round of episodes on "Who Do You Think You Are?". This is the "grandfather" of this category of shows having been on for about 6 years on TV in the United States and even longer in Great Britain where it truly originated.

TLC has announced that a new season of these shows will start on Sunday evening, April 3, 2016, at 8 PM Chicago time. TLC is a cable station so you at least need that service in order to get the show live. Ultimately, full-length previously seen shows can be found at various internet sites like YouTube and often at TLC itself. TLC often shows in its entirety the previous season episodes as a prelude to the new episode for this season. So there is a way to catch up and see these shows even if it is shown as a "Mini" marathon!

According to TLC many of the shows will take place in countries not previously visited with other "stars". So while you will hopefully pick up some genealogy tips along the way of viewing the shows, it also appears you can sit back from some new travel experiences to countries not previously visited!

It does seem like a season series of episodes has shrunk precipitously from around 10 to 12 episodes to generally 7 episodes. It does seem the same for this year's episodes as 6 "stars" have been identified. I believe there will be at least one more "star" named for this season's set of shows.

The above list of "stars" is just that. It does not signify the order of the shows that will be presented by TLC. In fact, the April 3, 2016 premier episode will feature Aisha Tyler. Your best bet is to just be connected to the TLC website for the show at <http://www.tlc.com/tv-shows/who-do-you-think-you-are/>.

So then, had enough of Henry Louis Gates and "Finding Your Roots"? Tired of "Genealogy Road Show"? Then get ready for some new episodes of the granddaddy show of them all, "Who Do You Think You Are?" April 3, 2016 starts a new season on TLC on Sunday evenings when the show airs regularly.

++++
++++

Handout #7 – 20 YEARS OF CYNDI'S LIST

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated March 4, 2016.

It seems like only yesterday! The following announcement was written by Cyndi Ingle:

A major milestone celebrating 20 years of service

Cyndi's List

EDGEWOOD, WASHINGTON (March 4, 2016) – Cyndi's List (<http://www.CyndisList.com>) was launched 20 years ago on March 4, 1996. What started out as a side-page in a personal genealogy web site has become one of the top genealogy resources online. The original site started on one web page with 1,025 links. By the end of that first year the site was sorted onto individual pages with more than 9,600 links in more than 50 categories. Just after its one-year anniversary the site had grown to 17,300 links in more than 60 categories on 195+ separate web pages. The site has continued to grow exponentially with the popularity of genealogy and the Internet. Today there are more than 330,000 links in 207 categories that point to an endless supply of related genealogy links online.

The purpose of Cyndi's List remains the same today, 20 years after its creation: to be a free jumping-off point and a catalog for the immense genealogical collection that is the Internet. And it is all done not by software, but by a live human being. Every link found on Cyndi's List is personally visited, titled, given a description, categorized, and cross-referenced across the site. Cyndi Ingle is the creator and owner of Cyndi's List. The site is a one-woman enterprise in which Cyndi often works 10-12 hours each day, many times 7 days a week. Users of Cyndi's List are encouraged to submit new links and report broken links, all in an effort to keep Cyndi's List as current as possible.

Cyndi's List has always been free for everyone online to use for their genealogical research. It remains free today. The site is supported by advertising and through the donation button found on each page on the site. Generous users of Cyndi's List have helped to pay for 86 percent of the major site upgrade done in 2011.

Cyndi's List is unique as a research tool because it has a genealogist, with more than 36 years of experience, behind the scenes maintaining the links. Cyndi urges users to ignore the search engine on the site and explore the categories themselves (<http://www.CyndisList.com/categories/>). The categorization is what makes the site unique and such a successful research tool. Cyndi works diligently to deep-link into sites that contain genealogical treasures and by doing so brings those links to the top of the heap, easier to for everyone to find. By browsing through the site users find web sites and resources they never thought to look for and break down those brick walls in their research.

Users of Cyndi's List explain why it is such a popular research tool:

"Cyndi's List was one of the first sites I found upon starting to do genealogy. I've been consistently impressed with the scope, organization and accuracy of the site. Bravo Cyndi and thanks."

"Cyndislist has always been my go-to source for researching new things and it is always first or second on my list for genealogy newbies (FamilySearch wiki and Cyndislist are invaluable)"

"Cyndi's list is a sledge hammer for brick walls. Your site has led me to find great resources just clicking around."

"I've relied on your website as THE best resource on the 'net to help with my research..."

"Where can you get at all things genealogical in one fell swoop? Everyone knows it's CyndisList.com. Every genealogist who uses the web MUST use Cyndi's List."

Join us on social networking as we continue to celebrate this incredible milestone of 20 years of helping millions of people worldwide with their online research.

<https://www.facebook.com/CyndisList>

<https://twitter.com/CyndisList>

<https://plus.google.com/107399342052902753109>

Read more about how Cyndi's List got its start in the blog post, *"It All Began 20 Years Ago..."* <http://cyndislist.blogspot.com/2015/06/it-all-began-20-years-ago.html>

About CyndisList.com

CyndisList.com is the world's largest one-woman family history resource, with more than 330,000 categorized links for genealogical research. For more than 20 years Cyndi's List has helped hundreds of thousands of people with their online journey to trace their family history. The site averages 275,000 unique visitors and 5,000,000 page hits every month. Cyndi's List has won numerous awards and consistently remains one of the top genealogical portals for beginners, intermediate, and veteran researchers.

About Cyndi Ingle

Cyndi, a genealogist for more than 36 years, is a past member of the board of directors for the National Genealogical Society. During the past 25 years she has served in several capacities for local, national, and professional genealogical organizations. Cyndi is an internationally known guest lecturer for more than 175 genealogical society meetings and seminars (<http://www.CyndisList.com/speaking-calendar/>). She is the coordinator for the technology course at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG). She has lectured for SLIG, GENTECH, Brigham Young University, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the National Genealogical

Society, the American Library Association, and numerous state and local genealogical societies and libraries in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. **Cyndi has authored numerous articles and three books.** She has attended the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG), the Genealogical Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP), the National Institute on Genealogical Research (NIGR), and is a current participant in ProGen Study Group #24. Cyndi is a life member of the National Genealogical Society, the Virginia Genealogical Society, the Ohio Genealogical Society, the Indiana Genealogical Society, and the Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Congratulations to Cyndi Ingle!

*If you are at any research level as a genealogist, beginner, inter-mediate or advanced, you definitely want to visit Cyndi's List often. **I would consider her site as being one of those "bible of genealogy" sites to use as a resource.***

When I started doing genealogy back in about 1996, I do remember that at that time the internet was still so basic and raw that you really did not use it that much for any serious research. Heck, even corporations were not even touting web site addresses in advertisements!

I do remember back then that it was a joy to connect to Cyndi's List simply because if anything existed of note on the web for genealogy, it existed within Cyndi's List!** When you think of her history as to how many links she provided at the end of her 1 year anniversary back then, 17,000 links seemed like 17 million! **Today she has about 330,000 links today!

It is not about the numbers of links with Cyndi, but it is also about the way they are organized. Think of the words "library" and "catalog".** Most of the time we do not know of a specific web address already in mind. Rather, we think of a subject category of links that apply to that subject. **This is where Cyndi's list is so strong.** Are you looking for links to help with your "polish" genealogy? Then go to her "categories" list of subjects and see if Polish is present. **She currently has 208 designated categories.

Want to see what has been "newly" added then browse the "Browse New Links" link at the site!

*Become aware of such a wonderful resource as Cyndi's List and don't forget to use her resource often. **As a tip for new researchers, quit immediately and only wanting to find a search box and type in a surname to search when you find a site that offers it!! Please! Take some time to see what Cyndi has without immediately searching Google for that one and only hit you think will answer all of your research problems.***

If you have never heard of Cyndi's List come up for some air and dive into this wonderful resource! See what resources are among the 330,000 links Cyndi currently has that can fast forward your own research today.

++++
++++

Handout #8 – ROOTSMAGIC ADDS DIRECT IMPORT OF FAMILY TREE MAKER FILES

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated March 8, 2016.

Big news for anyone looking to switch from Family Tree Maker to another genealogy program: RootsMagic has added the capability to directly import Family Tree Maker databases without the use of GEDCOM.

Indeed, GEDCOM import has always been an option in RootsMagic but GEDCOM is an imperfect solution. GEDCOM frequently loses data. The new capability added to RootsMagic 7.1 avoids the problem.

Quoting the *RootsMagic Blog* at <http://blog.rootsmagic.com/?p=2668>:

Since Ancestry's announcement that they were parting ways with their Family Tree Maker software, thousands of FTM users have found a new home in RootsMagic. One of the first questions they have is, "How do I get my data from FTM into RootsMagic?"



Until today, the answer has always been through a GEDCOM file. But GEDCOM files from Family Tree Maker, while mostly effective, were often lacking data and details only found in the original file. Plus it added an extra step in the conversion process.

That's why we're excited to announce today's release of RootsMagic 7.1. In addition to various tweaks and fixes, this update adds the ability to directly import any Family Tree Maker file.

And by "any" Family Tree Maker file, we really mean it. RootsMagic can directly import:

- Family Tree Maker 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2014 for Windows (*.ftm, *.ftmb)
- Family Tree Maker 3 for Mac (*.ftm, *.ftmb)
- Family Tree Maker 2010 and 2012 for Mac (*.ftmm, *.ftmd)
- Classic Family Tree Maker Files (*.ftw)

In fact, RootsMagic can import a bigger variety of Family Tree Maker files than any single version of Family Tree Maker itself.

Further details, including step-by-step instructions, are given in the *RootsMagic Blog* at <http://blog.rootsmagic.com/?p=2668>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

It looks like the firestorm that started back in December 2015 regarding Ancestry's decision to exit the Family Tree Maker product line is actually settling down. Initially, users of Family Tree Maker were certainly caught off guard perceiving this exit from this product line was going to destroy all of the work that they had done in research using Family Tree Maker. Like all major unanticipated events like this, users of this product simply needed to take a deep breath while all the turmoil was being processed.

Another new development has just occurred making it seem like the Ancestry exit from Family Tree Maker is a moot point at this time. RootsMagic is actually making it very easy for those users of Family Tree Maker that might want to leave the product for RootsMagic. Any researcher using any lineage program can always switch products and bring their data along via the GEDCOM export/import process between lineage products. GEDCOM does work but often times not perfectly between transitions.

RootsMagic now is going to accommodate the process and make it even easier. They will be accepting the file format of many versions of current and former Family Tree Maker file formats. Lineage products generally did not do. This forced users to go the route of using GEDCOM. Under this new practice you just bring in your current Family Tree Maker file as it exists on your hard drive identified with the Family Tree Maker file format appendage. Bingo! Your file is now readily readable by RootsMagic.

RootsMagic has been very accommodative in this firestorm because it now affords them the opportunity to expand their customer base with former users of Family Tree Maker that were made unhappy by the Ancestry announcement. Talk about taking a good marketing advantage to the limit. They also offered discounts on the price itself of the product to former users of Family Tree Maker.

If you are a user of Family Tree Maker today even under the new ownership arrangement you may still want to consider trying out RootsMagic. This could not be a better opportunity to do this under RootsMagic's accommodation to accept Family Tree Maker file formats and avoiding the GEDCOM file transition.

The image of the developers of RootsMagic has certainly increased since December 2015. They have been looking to alleviate the fear and concerns of existing Family Tree Maker users for those that are in fact seeking a new partner with a different lineage product developer. RootsMagic is a very good product. They truly seem customer focused in developing solutions to want to make users jump onboard their lineage product ship.

++++
++++

Handout #9 – “FOR LOVE AND MONEY: PENSION LAWS AFFECTING WIDOWS OF MILITARY VETERANS”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the January-March 2016, Volume 42, Number 1 issue of NGS Magazine.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “For Love and Money: Pension Laws Affecting Widows of Military Veterans”. The author of the article is Claire Prechtel-Klusken.

As a genealogist we often discover that our ancestors were in the military service of the United States. Some of us might discover ancestral connections to someone having served in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War or even the Civil War. Some of us might have living relatives that may have served their country in military conflicts that were much more current in time such as the Korean War, the Viet Nam War or even the recent middle-eastern wars.

Veterans of any of these wars often received some form of a Pension for their service that could have gone to them and may have been passed on to their surviving wife and children after their death.

This article focuses on pension information for widows related to the Revolutionary War through the Civil War and does not focus on the more modern era wars of our time.

If you feel from your research for the above range of wars noted above that an ancestor might have served in one of them, look to establish and confirm that your ancestor did indeed serve in the military. If you feel you have established that then do not forget to research whether that veteran may have received some pension dollars as a result of that service that would have come directly to him and could have also come to his widow upon his death.

One thing to note is that the rules and regulations established by Congress for a widow to qualify for a pension were set up differently for each conflict. Not only that, but over time the original rules may have changed for widows of veterans for any of these widows again thanks to Congress.

This is a good article to give you a very good overview of these pension guidelines that apply to widows of veterans for the wars discussed in this article. You should make a copy of this article if your ancestor served in the Revolutionary War (1775 to April 1783), War of 1812 (June 18, 1812 to February 17, 1815), Mexican War (April 24, 1846 to May 30, 1848), Indian Wars (1818-1898), and Civil War.

Revolutionary War

- Please note that it took until July 4, 1836 before a congressional act took effect to establish a pension process for surviving widows of Revolutionary War veterans. That is almost 60 years since the beginning of the conflict.

- The act allowed widows whose marriage took place before the end of the veteran's service to receive the same amount her late husband would have been entitled to under the 1832 Act (typically \$8 per month!).
- An Act of 1838 established that for soldiers who married after the war that these wives be included to receive some form of pension through their husband after death. The 1838 Act established a 5 year window during which these widows would receive pension compensation through their deceased husband.
- An Act of 1848 finally established life pensions for widows of these Revolutionary War veterans as long as they were married prior to January 2, 1800.
- Finally an Act of 1853 and an Act of 1855 removed all of the date restrictions for these widows for a marriage date.
- An Act of 1878 allowed widows of men who had served for as few as 14 days or participated in any engagement to receive \$8 per month which was increased to \$12 per month with an Act in 1886.

War of 1812

- Widows of War of 1812 veterans who had served at least 60 days were granted an \$8 monthly pension by an Act of 1871 if their marriage had taken place by February 17, 1815.
- Act of 1878 extended pension benefits to any widow whose husband had served at least 14 days.
- Monthly rate was raised to \$12 by an Act of 1886.
- Monthly rate was raised to \$30 by an Act of 1920.
- Monthly rate was raised to \$50 by an Act of 1926.

Mexican War

- Widows of men who served at least 60 days during the war with Mexico, or who were personally named in a resolution of Congress, became eligible for an \$8 per month pension by the Act of 1887 if the widow was at least 62, dependent or disabled.
- The monthly amount was raised to \$12 by an Act of 1908.
- The monthly amount was raised to \$20 by an Act of 1916 for widows age 70 or older.
- The monthly amount was raised to \$30 by an Act of 1920.
- The monthly amount was raised to \$50 by an Act of 1926.

Indian Wars

- Act of 1892 authorized pensions to widows of men who served thirty days or more in Indian wars that occurred between 1832 and 1842. Widows also had to be citizens and actual residency in the U.S. was accepted as "proof of citizenship".
- A pension Act of 1908 gave widows of the "Texas volunteers" who served in the defense of the frontier of the State against Mexican marauders pension rights.

- An Act of 1917 extended Indian War widow's benefits again to include eligibility for benefits based on thirty days service by the veteran between 1859 and 1891 so long as the widow married the veteran before March 4, 1917. A list of specific campaigns was mentioned that tied into eligibility for benefits.
- If the veteran's service was less than thirty days a widow's pension could still be obtained if the veteran served "during the entire period of the said campaign".
- Indian War widows received \$8 from 1892 until the amount was increased to \$20 by an Act of 1913 and then \$30 by an Act of 1927.

Civil War

- Act of 1862 declared that widows of men who died due to wounds, injury or disease after March 4, 1861 were entitled to receive a pension equal to the amount the husband would have received "had he been totally disabled".
- Widows of privates and other low ranks received \$8 per month.
- Widow's pension would end upon remarriage or cohabitation without marriage.
- By an Act of 1890 a widow no longer had to prove the veteran's death occurred due to his military service; the veteran need only have served 90 days; widow must have married the veteran before June 27, 1890.
- Act of 1900 added a 4th criteria. The widow "had to be without means of support other than her daily labor and have actual net income of less than \$250 per year".
- Monthly rate increased to \$12 per month by Act of 1908.
- Act of 1920 increased monthly amount to \$30.
- Act of 1926 increased monthly amount to \$50.

As you can see this is a very complicated process that evolves over time regardless of the conflict or time period the veteran served in. The biggest takeaway from all of this activity documented into law is that for any military veteran you discover in your research that was married, it can be very likely that there is an large "paper trail" of records that exists related to widow's pension benefits. It is within this paper trail that much can be discovered about your military ancestor as well as the widow of that veteran.

++++
++++

Handout #10 – “ELECTRONIC RESOURCES TO BUILD CONTEXT”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the January-March 2016, Volume 42, Number 1 issue of NGS Magazine.

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled “Electronic Resources to Build Context”. The author of the article is Jordan Jones.

To know about our ancestors it is critical to study the history of the times of our ancestors. Our ancestors are more than “birth dates” and “death dates”. It is valuable to study the laws and regulations that governed the collection of the various records that would have been applicable to our ancestors. The author notes that it is important to “understand the milieu of our ancestors to understand migration patterns, the effect of war and pestilence, and the socio-political environment that drove their decisions, lives, migrations and alliances.”

So where can we gather this knowledge?

Online Education

- **The Great Courses** – within this resource, John Colletta has a course specifically on genealogy. You can often 80% sales on many of the courses offered at <http://www.thegreatcourses.com>.
- **Coursera** provides graded or ungraded courses from major universities. The graded courses have a small fee. You can find this at <http://www.coursera.com>.
- **EdX** was founded by Harvard University and MIT in 2012. Same courses taught to students at major universities. Content is delivered week by week as the course progresses. The courses also come with a social media community on Twitter, Facebook and Google Hangouts. You can find them at <https://www.edx.org>.
- **Khan Academy** has limited selection of historical courses. No quizzes in the courses! You can find them at <http://www.khanacademy.org>.
- **National Genealogical Society** offers many online courses. You can find them at http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/online_courses.
- Even **Cyndi's List** has online course links at <http://www.cyndislist.com/education/online-courses-and-webinars>.

Audio Books

- **Audible**, a subsidiary of Amazon, claims to have 225,000 audio books. Biggest complaint is that Audible does not seem to know what a chapter is in how it organizes its material. No chapter titles. Numbered from “1” going forward even if “1” is an Introduction. You can find it at www.audible.com.

- **Downpour** is trying to give Audible a run for its money. The material does not lock you into a website. Material you get is in MP3 format without digital rights management (DRM). Selection is not as good as for Audible but the fees are lower. You can visit them at <http://www.downpour.com/>.
- **OverDrive** is a source that lets you borrow e-books, audio books and video content from public libraries. Can be a complicated login process between all of the components in the chain. OverDrive has partnered with 30,000 libraries in over 40 countries. If material is checked out to someone else, you will still have to put a hold on the material to obtain when it becomes available. Find it at <https://www.overdrive.com>.

Video

- **The Great War** is a weekly series, covering every week of the war as that week reaches its 100th anniversary. It is available on YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/TheGreatWar.
- **British Pathe** touts itself as the “finest newsreel archive in the world.” Boasts 85,000 films from 1896 to 1976. You can find this at www.britishpathe.com or www.youtube.com/user/britishpathe.

E-Books

- **Amazon is the behemoth**. Apple iBooks and Google Books are also players. Many public domain titles are available in Google Books.
- To be aware of sales, especially on your Amazon Wish List, consider using eReader IQ at www.ereaderiq.com.
- **Open Library** has e-books, many of which are Public Domain at <https://openlibrary.org>.
- Amazon Kindle Unlimited was released in 2014. Service allows you to borrow from more than 1 million books, but only 10 at a time. You can keep any of those books indefinitely. There is a \$9.99 monthly subscription for this service.
- **Scribd** has expanded to include audio books. Costs \$8.99 per month. You can find this at www.scribd.com.

All of these resources can help you fill in the historical information associated with the times and era of your ancestors. Family research can be so much more than just dates. Add more to your ancestors by learning about the historical times when they were alive.

++++
++++