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May 10, 2016 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our May 10, 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) TO BE DETERMINED (PROBABLY END OF AUGUST/BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER 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 SOCIETY WILL NOT BE MEETING DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY 2016. THEY WILL RE-GATHER AGAIN AT THE END OF AUGUST 2016 INSTEAD OF A SEPTEMBER PROGRAM THAT WOULD CONFLICT WITH LABOR DAY.

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society (New Name) will take place on Saturday morning, To Be Determined. The program for the morning is titled **"To Be Determined"**. The speaker for the morning will be **To Be Determined**.

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 MAY 18, 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, May 18, 2016. The program scheduled for that evening is **“Researching Colonial American Ancestors”**. The speaker for the program will be **Jane Haldeman**.

You may visit the society's web page at:

www.dcg.org

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

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

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

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGGNI) NEXT PROGRAM ON MAY 21, 2016 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, May 21, 2016 at the Schaumburg Township District Library in Schaumburg, IL. The program scheduled for this day is **"FindAGrave – A Wonderful Website"**. The speaker will be **Robert Allen**.

While many are aware of and have visited this genealogical site, most are not familiar with the many lesser-used areas on the site that can lead you to new information.

This data can fill many blanks in your knowledge of your ancestors, relatives and their friends. Ways to access and capture this gold mine of information will be discussed.

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 JUNE 14, 2016

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, June 14, 2016.

We will have another “break-out” session for our gathering on June 14, 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 June 14, 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 and other libraries.

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Handout #6 – ANCESTRY.COM REPORTS 1ST QUARTER 2016 FINANCIAL RESULTS

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated April 20, 2016.

Ancestry.com LLC reported financial results today for the first quarter ended March 31, 2016:

– **First Quarter Revenues \$196.5 million, Up 19.4% Year-Over-Year; Up 21.2% on Constant Currency Basis** –

– **First Quarter Adjusted EBITDA \$70.1 million, Up 13.1% Year-Over-Year⁽¹⁾** –

"We had a strong start to 2016, led by the continued momentum of AncestryDNA and accelerating revenue growth in our family history business," said Tim Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer of Ancestry.com. "This is an exciting time for Ancestry. We're seeing tremendous interest in our products and services, illustrated by steady subscriber gains and growth in our DNA database, which is quickly approaching two million DNA samples. We are focused on capitalizing on this momentum through sound execution of our strategy, targeted investments in initiatives to drive growth, diversified revenue streams and even better customer experiences across our portfolio of businesses."

First Quarter 2016 Financial Highlights

Total revenues for the first quarter of 2016 were \$196.5 million compared to \$164.6 million in the first quarter of 2015, driven by growth in revenues from AncestryDNA and the core Ancestry websites. On a constant currency basis, first quarter 2016 total revenues would have increased 21.2% year-over-year.

Net income for the first quarter of 2016 was \$12.4 million compared to \$2.8 million in the first quarter of 2015.

Adjusted EBITDA^{(1), (2)} for the first quarter of 2016 was \$68.2 million compared to \$61.7 million in the first quarter of 2015. Excluding the impact of one-time expenses, adjusted EBITDA for the first quarter of 2016 increased 13.1% year-over-year, to \$70.1 million.

Free cash flow⁽³⁾ for the first quarter of 2016 was \$46.3 million compared to \$43.5 million for the first quarter of 2015.

Cash and cash equivalents totaled \$176.8 million as of March 31, 2016.

Obligations under long-term debt⁽⁴⁾ totaled \$1.0 billion as of March 31, 2016.

The full quarterly financial results are lengthy and can be found at <http://goo.gl/RhcFnZ>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Let us always remember first that Ancestry.com is a business. You subscribe to them within a subscription that you are comfortable with and can afford from the many plans they offer. You choose from their offering. Do I want access to only United States records? Do I want access to only international records? Do I want access to both kinds of records? And the list goes on for add-ins of all kinds. Do I want to subscribe only to the "free" 2 week offering that is almost always available. Do I want to subscribe for a month? A quarter? Six months? Etc.

Let's say you are now a customer of Ancestry.com. And like with all businesses, you will be wined and dined (you hope) with good data, good service and good results. If not, you pick up your subscription and cancel it or move on to another database subscriber to spend your money wisely. Or maybe you move over to FamilySearch.org and just build your family tree with free material provided by them online.

In the end Ancestry.com is always looking for more customers with large size subscription packages who routinely renew the subscription on a recurring basis. Perhaps, you even renew and add-on other services offered by Ancestry.com e.g. Ancestry Academy, Newspapers.com etc.

The result of all this churn of new customers, leaving customers, service add-ons and service deletions becomes money in the bank account of Ancestry.com. Or it could turn into a dollar loss if there are far too many cancellations not being replaced with new subscribers. Business can reflect both "profit" and "loss".

In this case it looks like the money results for Ancestry.com in the most recent 2016 report quarter are very good. Revenues are up significantly and profits are up significantly. A healthy business is a good thing for its customers. More new things will ultimately be created to subscribe to. More databases will be added. More services will be offered. That is what a business does. A business is always looking to improve the bottom-line.

Congratulations Ancestry.com on the stellar 1st quarter 2016 results!

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Handout #7 – PRESEVE FAMILY RECIPES VIA VIDEO

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated April 25, 2016.

Here's an idea. Preserve family recipes by taking videos of the family member who makes it the best. Perhaps that person is you.

Ann-Terese Barket, aka [The Food Archivist](#), thinks the perfect gift just might be a two-inch flash drive containing the video. Make lots of copies and distribute them as gifts. The videos do not need to be professional Hollywood productions. Your family members will probably appreciate watching the family expert "as is."

Barket documents family recipes via videos and transcripts so they may be easily shared with relatives and friends. She officially started her business after realizing how important recipes were in maintaining the cherished culinary memories of her own family.

"But unofficially, this has been (happening) since I was a little girl," Barket said. "I would watch my dad cook all the recipes at our El Matador Restaurant. I documented his every move, and when he passed I felt the need to have a cookbook filled with his recipes."

You can read more at: <http://goo.gl/TIWIkp>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

I think this is a fantastic idea. We may have already heard about family recipes for which the researcher may have a copy of a recipe that is posted. But why not take it to the next level and get the recipe specialist into a recorded video that becomes one of those wonderful keepsakes to pass on to new generations. Don't we all wish we had movies of our ancestors from way back when to make them come alive over and over by just hitting the "play" button! I know I sure wish I had movies and sound from those movies of ancestors from way back when. Oooops! Only problem with that is the technology did not exist. Today it exists. These special memories can be created now going forward to future generations.

Our lives today are almost always in some ways being recorded. Through social media we can take "selfies" of ourselves and upload them left and right. Or we can take mini-videos and upload those. The technology today with smart phones and cameras makes it as simple as a click and record or click and snap. All we have to do then is put the data on the cloud for anyone to access. No loading cassettes, no putting films through a projector the way many of us would have done from the media we had available 50 years ago.

Cooking and recipes are one of those family passed on traditions that many of us have. Perhaps the recipe or cooking method you use today came from your own parents. But perhaps that cooking process was passed down from many, many previous generations to you. We may never accurately know that history, but you can sure start a new tradition and make some videos of your favorite relative

cooking up their very own passed down family recipe! **Sharing the recording on a flashdrive is easy and inexpensive. Putting it in the cloud or even on YouTube is an even better way to make distribution and access easy as can be.**

Think of other things to record that are a specialty of a relative today. How about a relative that is good with working with wood? How about someone that is great at knitting or quilting? How about someone that is a great fisherman? How about someone that enjoys model trains as a hobby? The list is endless what you can do as to capturing recorded moments of someone with a special skill today that can live on forever to succeeding generations.

Hearing the story is one thing, but seeing them in action is priceless!

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Handout #8 – RECLAIM THE RECORDS: NEW YORK CITY MARRIAGE INDEX 1908-1929 GOES ONLINE

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

The following announcement was written by the folks at Reclaim The Records:

The 1908-1929 NYC marriage index goes online for free public use

RECLAIM THE RECORDS

It took one Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request, one modification of that FOIL request, one FOIL Appeal, one Advisory Opinion issued by the New York State Committee on Open Government, one "Article 78" legal petition filed in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, one legal settlement with the City of New York, 46 brand new microfilm copies created from the master films held in one city agency's vault and another two films from another city agency's vault, one portable hard drive full of high-quality digital scans of the 48 films donated by a kind non-profit organization, several days working in the headquarters of another non-profit to borrow their Internet bandwidth and hard drive space, and sixteen months.

But we did it. Today, Reclaim the Records is very pleased to announce that the index to the New York City Clerk's Office marriage records (the application, affidavit, and license) for 1908-1929 **is now online** and open for public use.

There are no logins required, no paywalls, no copyrights, and no usage restrictions. The index is now free and open data, forever.

39 of the 48 microfilms are now online at the Internet Archive, and the remaining nine films will be put online throughout the next few weeks.

Here's the link!: <https://archive.org/details/nycmarriageindex>

This includes (so far) 48 items scanned from 39 microfilms:

- **MANHATTAN 1908-1929**
- **BROOKLYN 1908-1929**
- **BRONX 1914-1917**

Coming soon are the final nine microfilms:

- **BRONX 1918-1929**
- **QUEENS 1908-1930**
- **STATEN ISLAND 1908-1938**

Details about how to join a new volunteer-led transcription project for these images, to turn them into a free online searchable database, will be announced shortly.

Quick notes and updates

- Our first court date in our Article 78 legal petition in the Supreme Court of New York against the New York City Clerk's Office, seeking the first-ever public copies of the 1930-2015 NYC marriage index under the New York State Freedom of Information Law, has been pushed back one month, to May 9, 2016. We will let you know how it goes.
- Our case to be reimbursed our attorneys fees by the New York City Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS, parent agency of the NYC Municipal Archives) is scheduled to have its oral arguments on May 25, 2016. We'll let you know how that goes, too.
- Last month, Reclaim The Records was one of the organizations that was a signatory to a letter to Senators Grassley, Leahy and Cornyn, all of the Senate Judiciary Committee, for the Endorsement of Immediate Passage of FOIA Improvement Act of 2016. Yup, Reclaim The Records is going to start getting involved in governmental lobbying efforts to improve FOIA and strengthen state Freedom of Information laws.

The start of the avalanche

Thank you to everyone who has supported us on this journey to make this dream of open records a reality.

And we're just getting started... There's more news coming soon.

Comments by Tony Kierna

This Dick Eastman article caught my eye not so much for the description of the new data that will become available for New York City records. Rather, what caught my eye was the mention of the organization called "Reclaim the Records" and the description of the steps they took to make this new data become available online for free without any subscription.

You can see that so much of their effort is geared in the legal approach. Data exists everywhere yet we know that between the privacy concerns we all hear about and just plain old bureaucratic methods of "it's always been done that way" mindset, nothing much happens with data that could find its way to the public.

My hats off to this group. They seem to have knowledge, organization, strategies, legal knowledge and obviously stamina and fortitude to have successfully pulled this off.

Even better, this success sounds like it will be used as a stepping stone to build on and target other sources of data for release. That is often all that it takes. Once you have a working model that produced successful results, you duplicate the process state to state and county to county to get records that are inaccessible in an easy online method made accessible online.

I started looking at the website of this organization just to see what more can be found out about them. You can find them online at:

<https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/>

Look at the website and in particular the "our to-do list". This group has identified the list of records they would like to pursue for easier online rather than requiring someone to have to jump through hoops and view records at limited physical locations with minimal hours of the day/weekends when these can be viewed. Take a look especially at the Illinois/Cook County records they are targeting for open viewing. You will notice that they are targeting the Birth, Marriage and Death Records of Cook County that you can obtain images from the county for the \$15 fee. These documents were at one time available from within FamilySearch.org. They were denied image access when their contract was renewed. This meant you had to go through the County and pay the \$15 fee in order to obtain the image of the actual document connected to the indexed record online.

Wouldn't this be a great resource to become available for free online with no subscription, no cost and no hassle! So right off the bat those of us in Illinois have this group trying to help us as researchers. There are 59 projects on this wish list from all across the country, although many are from New York and New Jersey.

This group is also not asking for donations but is simply asking visitors to the site to take their "Records Survey" on the site.

The group is also investigating situations where a state or a county sets a year limit on what records can be accessed but for which there is no legal obligation on why the stat may have set such a year limit. This group is also pushing back to challenge the withholding of records when there does not seem to be a legal reason to do so.

I do encourage you to take a look at the website of this organization and see who they are and what they are doing at an even deeper level.

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Handout #9 – “WHEN YOU’RE GONE”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the March/April 2016, Volume 2, Number 1 issue of Your Genealogy Today.

I thought that an interesting article in this issue is one titled “When You’re Gone”. The author of the article is Carol Richey. Carol shares with the readers strategies to make sure your genealogical work gets passed on. She describes some of the pitfalls to avoid in planning such succession.

The author notes that it is important for us to have a plan in place to pass our genealogical work to someone. None of us lives forever. We do not escape the grim reaper. It is also important to think in a broader term about your genealogical material. It is just not your lineage research of names and dates. It is also all the actual physical material you have collected such as rings, baby toys, cards etc. None of us is perfect in our plans. Over the years the author has learned many things to help make succession planning of genealogical material more successful. The article does point out some of the mistakes that were made over the years.

Here are the tips:

- The stories that were passed to the author were not initially written down. Over the years, the memories of these stories faded and are lost forever. Get the stories onto paper in some fashion for reference at a future date to make them more complete. As the author notes, “... events do create records that we can collect, but people create memories.”
- Another misstep noted by the author pertains to the many photos she came to possess. The photos were scanned. Stories of the photos were passed to the author. This information was digitized into the photos by the author. All sounds good and perfect. However, the author did not make a backup copy of these digitized photos and as Murphy’s Law will have it the hard disk where the material existed crashed and all of the work done by the author was lost. All of the work needed to be re-created. Even then, the re-creation process may not create the work the way it was. The solution, MAKE BACKUP COPIES OF ANY OF THE DATA YOU HAVE ON YOUR HARD DRIVE! Follow the acronym of LOCKSS which stands for “Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe”. Get copies of your materials outside of your house to other cousins for off-site storage. More information about this can be found at the National Archives at www.archives.gov/preservation/family-archives/index.html.
- A family quilt was in the possession of the author. It was a favorite and represented the last quilt done by a family member before their death. A friend thought it could be found in a certain part of the home. The author realized that the location of the quilt was an area she had already cleaned after the death of this relative. It was very

likely the author disposed of it before she knew the history about it. Keeping family treasures is not enough to guarantee their preservation. Store them properly and label them properly so surviving family members at least have an idea of what the material is and why it may be important. The Library of Congress Family Treasures web page can provide you with some insights about preservation. You can find this at www.loc.gov/preservation/family.

- At the burial of the mother-in-law of the author, one of the relatives mentioned that there were 3 cassette tapes that were given to the mother-in-law that contained family history stories from now deceased family members. Did the author find them? Did the author even know about them? The author's husband had gone through some of the material of his now deceased mother and did not know what the tapes contained. Additionally, no device was available to even play the cassettes and the husband then decided they were obsolete and disposed of the cassettes. Oops! Changes in technology from 5 ¼ floppies, to smaller floppies, to CDs, DVDs, flashdrives all carry the possibility that the material on these media devices may no longer be able to be read by devices of the future. Get this information transferred to each successive new method of storage. Get the material into the cloud while you still have devices that can read the material.
- After the death of her mother-in-law the author was approached by another relative that was very interested in a collectible the mother-in-law had. The story of the article connected directly with this relative and they asked if they could have it. The author had no problem giving this collectible to that individual. The lesson here is to make a list up of your own collectibles describing what they are and why they may have importance to you or another family member. Think of this as making an inventory of these items with detailed descriptions and any insights as to the history and who might be interested in receiving them after your death. Share the inventory with other relatives so they know what you are in possession of. Get an idea in advance of who might be interested in getting the collectible after your death. The paper trail will make relatives aware of material to be disbursed.
- Sharing your family history work is important. Do it while you are still alive. Connect with those cousins now and not hope it will all happen upon your death. For most after your death your material will be considered "junk" and will be disposed of in a manner you will not like. If you do not share with your living cousins while you are alive, at least consider sharing the material with the Allen County Library of Fort Wayne, Indiana. They are a genealogy mecca in the Midwest. Work with the Genealogy Center of the library. They offer a Photocopy Exchange Program. In exchange for letting them copy your family history (complete or incomplete) they will make an additional bound copy for you. Copying time for your material takes about 4 weeks with an additional 4 weeks required to create the bound volume for you. They also welcome digital copies of your material if you have that. You can provide digital copies to their DropBox account or their Google Docs account. **Contact the Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library by email at Genealogy@ACPL.Info. By**

phone at 260-421-1225. By regular mail at The Genealogy Center, Allen County Public Library, P.O. Box 2270, Fort Wayne, IN 46801. The general website for the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center is www.genealogycenter.org.

Now is the time to get your own material lined up in a row. Create that succession plan. Create written directions. Add a codicil to your will about what to do with your genealogy research material. Get copies of your material to your cousins in an offsite location as a security backup.

Learn from the above lessons on what can go wrong when you think your genealogy material will find a home after your death. Your best wishes may go nowhere unless you take action now to prepare have your material find a home after your death.

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Handout #10 – “PLAN A RESEARCH TRIP TO IRELAND”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the March/April 2016, Volume 2, Number 1 issue of Your Genealogy Today.

Doing Irish research? Considering going to Ireland to visit and research ancestors? There is a good article in this issue titled “Plan a Research Trip to Ireland”. The author of the article is Lesley Anderson.

Interesting claim ... by the 21st century an estimated 70 million people worldwide could claim some form of Irish descent!! Maybe you are one of them and want to visit the land of your ancestors.

Do your homework here first. Research, research, research before you ever think of getting on that plane to make your visit! Going there without any research is like spinning the lotto wheel. It is not a good idea to get off the plane and ask the first Irish person you meet to point you to the O'Brien family because you are a long last cousin. Good luck with that approach.

The author suggests that by prior research first, you should know the name(s) of your ancestors, any key dates, for births or marriages, religion, county, parish and even townland. Knowing where the records are held is also a good idea. Remember the political turmoil that occurred in what you know today as Ireland. Northern Ireland today may well have been referred to by your ancestors as “Ireland” since the balance of the country prior to 1922 was controlled by Great Britain.

Flying into Dublin may be your first best choice because the air fares into the city are the least expensive. Research all of your day to day activities for any research in archives and depositories. Know their times for opening and closing. Know their rules for onsite research. Bring a flash drive for saving images. Ask about taking photos with a camera or your smartphone for review when home. Ask about making copies on a copy machine. Know if you need a research pass to do hands on research. Check the websites of these facilities for all of this information. Don't forget cash or credit card to use for making any copies.

Facilities mentioned by the author for research located in Dublin are:

- National Archives of Ireland @ www.nationalarchives.ie. Good starting point. You will need to get a reader's ticket to get access so make sure you have a photo ID as well as proof of address that is current. (Dublin)
- General Register Office @ www.groireland.ie. Open Monday to Friday. Holds Civil Records for the Republic of Ireland from 1922. For Northern Ireland info for this timeframe you will need to research at General Register Office in Belfast. Research the indexes online provided by FamilySearch.org or Ancestry.com for the UK. (Dublin)

- Valuation Office @ www.valoff.ie. Close to the General Register Office. Holds cancelled land books (revisions of Griffith's Valuation documenting all changes of occupancy of land from the time of the original survey to recent decades). If your ancestors are from actual Northern Ireland you can find material at the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI). (Dublin)
- The National Library @ www.nli.ie. Has microfilm copies of most Roman Catholic parishes up to 1880 (published online in 2015), most Irish newspapers, printed books and periodicals. (Dublin)
- Church of Ireland Library @ <http://ireland.anglican.org/about/109> Anglican Church of Ireland repository. (Dublin)

Facilities mentioned by the author that are located in Belfast are:

- Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) @ www.proni.gov.uk. Use website for accessing online research guides.
- Presbyterian Historical Society @ www.presbyterianhistoryireland.com. Presbyterian registers generally do not pre-date 19th century. Congregations not established until the 1800s. You may encounter less systematic record keeping at the facility.
- General Register Office of Northern Ireland (GRONI) @ www.nidirect.gov.uk/gro. Responsible for birth, marriage and death records from 1864. Website gives details on how to obtain copies of these documents. Very limited space on site. Can reserve a computer for searching and can get copies of documents for a fee.
- Ulster Historical Association @ www.ancestryireland.com. Moving to the historic Corn Exchange Building in Belfast spring of 2016. Offers research reports and consultations as well as online databases.

The author also notes that you might want to combine your research aspirations with a tour of your ancestral homeland. She suggests using www.discoverireland.com as a source for this goal. There are self-drive tours, Escorted Bus Tours, day trips and even genealogy education conferences.

My biggest takeaway is to do plenty of research at home to verify that your family history stories get you researching in the right direction. Just going to Ireland to research a family just based on a story is almost a sure way to not have fun. Research here. Discover the locations of ancestors. Capture their records and then go to Ireland to pick up the research in the areas you have proven to be true and accurate related to your family history.

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