HANDOUTS TABLE OF CONTENTS
October 11, 2016

October 11, 2016 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our October 11, 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 WILL BE ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2016

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society will take place on Saturday morning, November 5, 2016. The program for the morning is titled **"Research Practices: Sources and Citations"**. The speaker for the morning will be **Ginger Frere**.

If you are a beginning genealogist or have ever scratched your head trying to re-create previous research, this session is for you. Learn the basics of evaluating a document and the information it contains. Find out how to cite sources appropriately. We will also discuss resources to guide you in becoming a better genealogist.

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 OCTOBER 19, 2016

Please note that meetings that will take place for the society will occur between September 2016 through May 2017. The September and October 2016 programs will occur at the DuPage County Historical Museum located at 102 E. Wesley Street in Wheaton, IL. The November 2016 through May 2017 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 8:45 PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DuPage County Genealogical Society will take place on Wednesday evening, October 19, 2016. The program scheduled for that evening is **"Finding Your Civil War Ancestor Online"**. The speakers for the program will be **Bruce Allardice**. *The October 2016 program will occur at the DuPage County Historical Museum located at 102 E. Wesley Street in Wheaton, IL. It will NOT occur at the Wheaton Public Library.*

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 OCTOBER 15, 2016 AT THE HYATT PLACE SCHAUMBURG

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, October 15, 2016 at the Hyatt Place Schaumburg in Schaumburg, IL.   **(Program Will _Not_ Be Held At the Schaumburg Township District Library).** The program scheduled for this day is **"Try-It Illinois"**. The speakers will be **Debra Dudek.**

(October & November) The annual *Try-It Illinois* Database trial which runs from October 1 - November 30, allow you to access a ton of free genealogy databases from home for free! Learn how to navigate these resources successfully to fulfill your research goals

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

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 NOVEMBER 8, 2016

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

The program is titled "Navigating World War II Records on Fold3". The speaker for this topic will be Jennifer Holik.

Researching the service of a World War II soldier is more than the Official Military Personnel File we might locate. That file is helpful in creating a timeline of military service, but we must move beyond it to find more of the story. Looking beyond the individual records, we can find unit histories, battle reports, mission reports, war diaries, and other higher level materials, which provide context in which to put our soldier.

Many of the records you need to research your soldier's service, are not online. However, Fold3.com has digitized many unit level records from the National Archives at College Park, MD, to help you with your research. As with any digitized collection, searching by your soldier's name will not usually yield you enough of the materials available. There are many tips and tricks to locating the gold within the massive amount of paperwork available.

Jennifer Holik is an international researcher, speaker, and author of numerous books, articles, and courses. She holds a BA in History from Missouri University of Science and Technology. Jennifer offers expert World War II, genealogical, and historical research, writing, and speaking services. Her website is: http://jenniferholik.com

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 GENEALOGY TV SERIES COMING!

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated September 15, 2016.

Sirens Media and Leftfield Entertainment is looking to genealogists or amateur or professional historians to be assist in the casting of a new television series. That could be you.

Sirens Media and Leftfield Entertainment is one of the largest TV programming powerhouses in the world. The company has created a number of programs for virtually every television network, including the History Channel, Discovery Channel, and National Geographic, to name a few. You can learn more about some of the company's productions at leftfieldpictures.com.

I received the following message from Jodi Friedman, the Casting Director of Sirens Media and Leftfield Entertainment:

We're currently casting a groundbreaking new series for one of the major TV networks that will feature passionate descendants, historians, and history enthusiasts. Specifically, we are looking for individuals who want to challenge history, and are confident that the history books got something wrong. Our series will dive into an active investigation with distant relatives of notable historical figures, as well as passionate history buffs on a mission to reveal the truth about a historical event. People must have some sort of proof, whether it be a diary, photographs, documents, etc. We are looking to cover all time periods, everything from ancient Greece to Obama's presidency – nothing is too old or too recent. If you (or someone you know) has physical evidence of something that can possibly rewrite history – and the passion prove it – we want to hear from you ASAP!

Please spread the word! My contact info is below if anyone has questions.

Jodi Friedman
Casting Director
212.564.2607 x2648
jodi.friedman@leftfieldpictures.com

Comments by Tony Kierna

Do you think there are already too many genealogy TV programs among the various networks and cable stations? Are you addicted to all of them? Can too many really be too much? Well, make some room for yet another one coming down the pipe. This one looks to be not purely genealogical but it could!

This one right now appears to be still in the developmental stage and if it does have a title the above write-up from Dick Eastman was unable to capture it. The premise of the show is if you know something in history as we know it is incorrect and you have the evidence to prove it wrong, then this show is looking for you. The show

centers around you and your provable story. So as you can see the show is already looking for you, your story proving history is wrong and your ability to showcase your story on this new proposed TV series.

Do you think someone else flew a plane before the Wright brothers? Got proof? Think that someone other than Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence? Got proof? Think your ancestor was on the Mayflower, but current evidence does not support that? Got proof?

You get the drift here. You can change history as we have known it, but you have got to provide PROOF?

The casting couch is now open. Having the story and the proof is one thing. I also believe you have to have the on-air TV capability to get your story up on the show! The hardest part might be just getting past Jodi Friedman, the Casting Director of Sirens Media and Leftfield Entertainment.

If you have just been waiting for a show of this kind to come onto the air, then by all means your ship has come in! Give Jodi a call. Prepare yourself to become that on air corrector of bad history! You can do it!

+ +
+ +

Handout #7 – LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRESERVATION BOOKMARKS

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated September 23, 2016.

The Library of Congress Preservation Directorate has developed the bookmarks below to celebrate Preservation Week, an initiative launched by the Library of Congress, Institute of Library and Museum Services, American Library Association, American Institute for Conservation, Society of American Archivists, and Heritage Preservation to highlight what we can do, individually and together, to preserve our personal and shared collections. The original versions of these bookmarks (2009, 2011) were made possible in part by funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

See https://goo.gl/uoACXo for:

- Preserve Your Photographs
- Preserve Your Digital Files
- Preserve Your Papers
- Preserve Your Books

See https://goo.gl/YtfMxj for:

- Preserve Your Works Of Art
- Preserve Your Family Heirlooms
- Preserve Your Stuff After Water Damage
- Preserve Your A/V Recordings

Comments by Tony Kierna

You can't go wrong with some good and simple advice on how to preserve your materials associated with all of your genealogical research. The Library of Congress has some simple bookmarks containing advice on just how to make that happen. There could be books written, and there are, about each individual topic. Just think of these as reminders to keep with your books.

The links above will get you to PDF files where you will be able to see what the hints are from the Library of Congress on how to begin your preservation process for any or all of the material you may have in your possession.

One theme you will see running through all of the Library of Congress advice is to always consider using storage materials from preservation suppliers. Whether it be photos, papers, books, you want to use supplies that will enhance the survival of your materials. The days of storing your materials in carton boxes in your attic or basement should be reviewed by you if you seriously want to pass these valuables on to future generations.

The Library of Congress has so much more for you to discover to help you in your preservation efforts of your own materials. Here is a link to so much more from the Library of Congress to check out

http://www.loc.gov/preservation/

The bookmarks can give you some high-level insights into preservation. There is so much more at the Library of Congress. Also, try the following Topics in Preservation Series (TOPS) from the Library of Congress. These are some very niched videos on really granular aspects of preservation as well as on preservation methods that the regular genealogical researcher can understand and put into practice. These training videos cover 2002 to 2016. You can find these at:

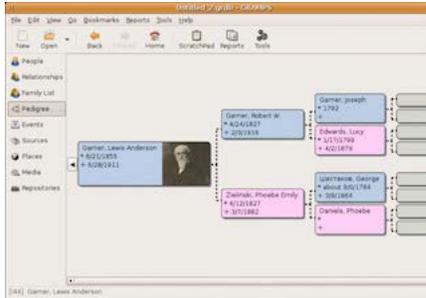*http://www.loc.gov/preservation/outreach/tops/index.html#y2016*

The Bookmarks will just whet your appetite. Dig a lot deeper into the topic from the links above. Your material is valuable and important to future generations.

+ +
+ +

Handout #8 – THE FUTURE OF GENEALOGY SOFTWARE

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated September 6, 2016.

Warning: this article contains personal opinions (from Dick Eastman). <mark>Long write-up to follow but important topic in genealogy!</mark>

I recently exchanged email messages with a newsletter reader who is looking for a replacement for his favorite genealogy program, the now-defunct program called The Master Genealogist. He raised some good points about today's available genealogy products, and I responded with some of my views and predictions. I decided to write an article based upon our "conversation" and to also expand our comments as I imagine many newsletter readers also are interested in finding new and (hopefully) better programs.

First, let me write specifically about The Master Genealogist.

The Master Genealogist, usually referred to as TMG, was a very powerful Windows genealogy program. It had features that appealed to the serious genealogist who wanted a tool to not only record genealogy findings but also to track and manage the entire family history research process. TMG had an army of strongly dedicated users, most of whom seemed to enjoy wringing every last ounce of productivity out of the program.

Many TMG users are still using the program as it seems to work well on every version of Windows, from Windows XP through Windows 10. However, most of the users also realize that some day a new version of Windows probably will break some of the features in TMG. Future use of the program is not guaranteed. Since the program is no longer supported or updated, a large number of these users are thinking about replacing TMG with something that will hopefully be supported for many more years.

I do not know the finances of Wholly Genes Software, the producers of TMG, but I suspect the company saw declining revenues every year accompanied by either stable or increasing expenses for support and future development. No company stays in business very long with those opposing factors. In addition, TMG was written in what has long been an obsolete programming language, so the idea of porting it to a new language or even to new operating systems (Macintosh, Android, iPad, etc.) probably was cost-prohibitive.

While the decision to drop TMG and to close the doors of the company was disappointing to the customers, I imagine the owner of the company had no other choice.

Alternative Genealogy Programs

OK, here is the sad news for present TMG owners: there is no other genealogy program on the market that has the power and the advanced capabilities of The Master Genealogist. None.

That's bad news for dedicated TMG users, but it is a fact of life.

There are programs that are better than TMG at various individual tasks, such as searching online databases, better at comparing family trees with distant relatives who have uploaded their family trees to a myriad of web services, better at providing user-friendly interfaces, and perhaps better at a number of other tasks. Indeed, there are more than a dozen excellent genealogy programs available today for Windows, Macintosh, and other operating systems.

However, I am not aware of any genealogy program available today that matches the power of TMG at recording all facets of the research process, at providing tools for evaluating genealogy evidence, and at a number of tasks that serious genealogists expect. Maybe there will be such a product someday, but such a product does not exist today.

Other Factors That Affect the Future of Genealogy Software

I read a lot of printed and online computer trade magazines. Over and over, I have read that the number of desktop computers being sold is dropping rapidly every year. In addition, depending upon which manufacturer's report you read, the sales of laptop computers are either holding steady or else are declining slowly every year.

The only laptops that are growing rapidly in numbers are the cloud-based Chromebook laptops that run the Chrome operating system. The sales of Chromebooks are exploding for a number of reasons: they are very easy to use, very reliable, perform most of the tasks that every-day computer users want, have been widely adopted in the public school systems, and have very low prices.

The Windows 10 and Macintosh OS X operating systems only run on desktop and laptop computers if we ignore the tiny fraction of 1% of the tablet computers that can also run Windows. Anything less than 1% can safely be ignored; it is not a significant factor.

The bottom line is this: the number of Windows and Macintosh systems being sold is already dropping every year.

This leads to one inescapable conclusion: Windows and the Macintosh OS X operating systems are also slowly dying. If the only systems that run these operating systems are declining, the operating systems themselves are obviously declining as well.

To be sure, Windows and OS X will not disappear any time soon. Your present desktop or laptop computer probably will be very useful for a long time yet. I believe Windows will survive in ever-smaller numbers for at least another decade, especially in the corporate environment. Businesses seem to love their Windows systems and probably will keep using them for at least another 10 years, perhaps longer. Sales of Windows systems to in-home users are already declining rapidly and that trend undoubtedly will continue.

I am not as sure about Macintosh OS X. Apple apparently has already seen "the writing on the wall" and is slowly merging the advantages of OS X and the advantages of mobile iOS systems (iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch) into one powerful, but future, product. OS X will probably change radically into something new, perhaps with a new name, and then will continue for a long time.

It seems obvious to me and to many others that the trend is moving to mobile systems, namely iPads, iPhones, and Android tablets and cell phones. These tiny devices are selling like hot cakes. In my frequent travels to airports and on board airplanes, I see hundreds of portable computing devices, mostly those running Android or Apple's iOS operating system.

Next, can you name a single brand-new genealogy program that has been announced for either Windows or Macintosh OS X in recent years? I am not referring to any new, upgraded release of an existing program. Instead, how many NEW genealogy programs can you think of that have been announced for Windows or Macintosh in the past 2 or 3 years?

NOTE: I can think of a couple, but they also seem to have since disappeared.

RootsMagic, Legacy Family Tree, Ancestral Quest, Family Historian, Family Tree Builder, Family Tree Maker, Reunion, MacFamilyTree, Heredis, GRAMPS, and other genealogy programs for Windows and/or Macintosh OS X are still being used by millions of people around the world; but, one has to question the future of these programs. If the number of Windows and Macintosh OS X desktop and laptop computers being sold every year is declining, what is the inevitable result for Windows and Macintosh OS X genealogy programs?

I will suggest that sales of these present programs will slowly decline.

Of course, many of the companies that produce today's genealogy programs are releasing new versions for Android and/or Apple iOS. I believe that most of these companies will remain in business and will remain profitable as they adapt to changing marketplace demands. The growth of genealogy programs appears to be taking place in the mobile marketplace. Dozens of new Android and Apple iOS genealogy apps have appeared in recent years, some of them produced by companies that have been producing Windows or Macintosh products.

There is one "elephant in the room" that I have not yet mentioned: the cloud.

Cloud-based apps are taking over the world in many areas although apparently not yet in genealogy.

Google Docs seems to be destined to replace Microsoft Word, LibreOffice, OpenOffice, WordPerfect, and many other desktop/laptop word processors. Similar stories seem to be happening for Excel and other spreadsheet programs, for Photoshop, and for many computer games.

If the Windows and Macintosh computers are to slowly disappear, it seems reasonable that the programs for those operating systems will also become less and less popular every year. OK, perhaps not entirely. Again, almost all the producers of word processors, spreadsheet programs, photo editing programs, and games are rapidly creating new versions of their programs for Android, iPhone, iPad, and cloud-based operating systems. Most of them have also developed or are developing cloud-based versions. I predict that their Windows and Macintosh versions will fade away, but most of the companies will remain in business by selling versions for the newer operating systems and for the cloud.

Let's examine cloud-based genealogy programs.

Cloud-based genealogy programs are available in two versions:

1. Many of the huge online database services digitize millions of records and make them available to their customers. I am thinking of the databases on MyHeritage.com, FamilySearch.org, Findmypast.com, Ancestry.com, and other online services. While valuable, I will ignore their company-contributed digital records for the remainder of this article. Instead, I will focus solely on services where individuals can upload their own family tree information for online storage and often for online collaboration with other genealogists. These are the online services that allow users to build their family trees on the web sites instead of in their personal devices.

2. In addition, there are only two well developed, state-of-the-art genealogy programs available today for implementation by single users in the cloud: **The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding** (which I will abbreviate to "TNG") and **WebTrees**, an open source, free genealogy program. Both of these programs are great for use by one person, by one family, or by one family association.

For more information about TNG, see http://www.tngsitebuilding.com.

For more information about WebTrees, see https://www.webtrees.net.

Note: Do not confuse the cloud-based TNG program (The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding) with the now-defunct Windows genealogy program called TMG (The Master Genealogist). These are two entirely different products, developed for different operating systems by different software developers. They are unrelated.

There are many advantages to using cloud-based programs, although not all of those advantages are apparent in today's cloud-based genealogy programs:

1. Most of these programs can be used with a variety of operating systems—Windows, Macintosh, Linux, Android, iPhone, iPad, Chromebooks, and probably future operating systems that have not yet been invented. No longer will cousins using different operating systems have difficulty exchanging genealogy data or be restricted to the multiple problems of GEDCOM data transfers. If everyone is sharing

data within cloud-based genealogy programs, everyone will have access to the same data. The choice of the user's computer is now unimportant.

2. The security of cloud-based programs is equal to and often better than that of desktop and laptop computers. Admittedly, many people do not yet believe that. Yet today's security techniques on cloud-based systems are far better at locking out thieves, hackers, and spies than either Windows or Macintosh.

Note: I had a Windows laptop computer stolen from the trunk of my automobile a few years ago. The thief gained access to all my genealogy information on the laptop's hard drive, as well as my credit card numbers, my Social Security Number, the name, email addresses, and telephone numbers of hundreds of my relatives and business associates, my checking account information, my investment portfolio, and much more. Even the simplest cloud-based application has better protection than a stolen laptop computer that has not been encrypted! I spent weeks canceling credit cards and bank accounts and obtaining replacements. Such problems are rare in today's strongly-protected cloud-based systems. Had I been using a cloud-based banking system, cloud-based credit card company access, and other cloud-based services, the thief would have accessed nothing personal.

3. In cloud-based genealogy services, sharing information theoretically is easier to implement and control than it is with desktop and laptop genealogy programs.

Notice my use of the word "theoretically." Not all of today's cloud-based genealogy services have implemented controls for sharing. However, TNG, WebTrees, and some of the huge online databases intended to be used by thousands of users provide options to keep your genealogy information private, to share it with only a few trusted relatives, or to make it visible to everyone on the World Wide Web. With many of these services, the user is in control of his or her own privacy. Be aware that there are exceptions, however.

Summation

The future of genealogy software appears to be in programs installed in the cloud, not programs installed in Macintosh or Windows computers. None of those programs contain the power of either TMG or most of the other Windows and Macintosh genealogy programs in the versions available today. However, they are improving every year.

Today's cloud-based genealogy programs have capabilities that approximately match the genealogy programs of the 1990s, plus they are compatible with many operating systems and can support multiple simultaneous users. Those of us who have been using genealogy programs since the 1990s can report that the available genealogy software has improved greatly since those days. I am certain that today's cloud-based genealogy services and even the mobile apps for Android and Apple iOS also will improve at least as much in future years.

The new cloud-based programs will not match the power of the Windows and Macintosh programs this year, probably not next year, and I doubt if they will be as powerful even the year after. But I anticipate that they will match and even surpass the power of today's desktop and laptop genealogy programs within a few years. The genealogy programs of the 1980s and 1990s continually improved to become the

powerhouses of today. I believe history will repeat itself: today's cloud-based genealogy programs will continually improve to become collaborative services that do far more than anything we have today.

The way I see it, the future of genealogy software is in the cloud.

Comments by Tony Kierna

I personally have been a user of Reunion lineage software for the Mac for a long, long time. The program resides on my iMac at home and is fairly current with upgrades being done over the years. I like having my material in front of me on a very powerful piece of software. It gives me flexibility and can allow me to create GEDCOMs to share or data to upload. It is geared for staying on your computer in the past traditional way of doing genealogy.

Today, however, with new library genealogy participants, it seems far fewer of them are using lineage programs at all. In fact, I generally ask them if they are aware of what a lineage program is and I often get a response that indicates they are not aware. Their idea of creating family trees is to research the information and then upload the discoveries to various services.   They have created these trees online at Ancestry.com (with personal subscription) or uploaded to trees at FamilySearch.org.(free). The beauty of these uploads is that such research can be shared in a collaborative manner with other cousins who have been working on the family and for "new" future connections to still undiscovered cousins. The data does not reside on a desktop computer accessible by only one person. Online data is easily shared and can and does create a collaborative research effort among many newly discovered cousins.

I completely agree with all that Dick Eastman has described above. I think the "cloud" is already here and is not the future anymore. The lineage program creators have not stood still. They have also developed "light" versions of their desktop products to reside on your smartphones and tablets. With these devices you can carry your research with you and are not limited to showing some material only via a desktop. Even the term "light" may not be correct because these mobile products are powerful in their own right.

I don't plan on giving up my Reunion lineage program any time soon. I can also use the product creator's smartphone version to enhance my portability and sharing. But I do think the days of lineage based software are on the decline not only for genealogy products for any desktop products in general. Think of how much more you are using your smartphones today versus just a couple of years ago. I know I am. Checking email anywhere, Googling any question that comes to my mind, doing online banking and the list goes on and on.

How about you, lineage program exclusively? How about you, online data in the cloud only? How about both for now although I do think cloud usage exclusively is not that far down the road!

+ +
+ +

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the September/October 2016, Volume 2, Number 4 issue of Your Genealogy Today.

* *

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled "Oral History Hygiene: Preventing Cavities in Your Genealogy". The author of the article is Joe Grandinetti.

The author provides insights into how we as genealogists are responsible for capturing the family stories that exist in our families. It is important to capture so that they can be passed down to the next and hopefully many generations to come after that.

The author provides an example of how he had an occasion to start the process. It was on the death of his mother's first cousin when he met the deceased for the first time. It was through this period of mourning that he was able to connect with many of the descendants of this recently deceased 102 year old cousin. Additionally, the author was able to paint a picture of the deceased from the eulogies that were made in her honor. The author did regret not taking advantage of connecting with the deceased while she was still alive.

The author took the funeral to plan a new process of capturing oral histories from other family members still alive. One of them was his uncle from his father's side. As it turned out this uncle was older than his own father and thus possessed a deeper insight into some of the family stories. Also, his uncle proved to be a goldmine of information and a long term relationship was established between the author and his uncle. Much information was captured before the author's uncle passed away at age 88.

The author sadly notes that family stories seemed so much easier to hear a generation ago when they were often passed and recounted at family gatherings. Hearing them orally then is not the same as "hearing" them today often Facebook or Twitter or in electronic format. Quoting from the author, "Today's communication is increasingly abbreviated, remote, and/or virtual. In a sad reversal of behavior, family time seems a distraction to screen time."

The stories from our ancestors may stem from their own experiences and those of others they've heard. In other words, as a story is told over time from person to person, the end result when you hear it may only be a hint of the actual story as it occurred.

These stories can be captured still on paper with pen. However, in the digital age, don't forego recording capabilities through technology. The author notes some of the tools today in the digital world are:

- Intent @ www.intentapp.com
- StoryWorth @ www.storyworth.com

- The History Project @ www.thehistoryproject.com

It is critical to capture oral history. It is more critical to convert it to a format that can be passed on to future generations without changing the contexts of the stories through the difficulties of passing down only oral histories.

In the article the author provided a nice list of Tips for Oral History Interviewing. These are:

- A sense of trust must be developed between interviewer and interviewee. If not yet established build it sincerity, politeness and subtle reminders that it's about "our family".

- Always consider the interviewee's comfort. Be at their home. Consider the presence of other family members to reassure the interviewee.

- Place your recording devices inconspicuously to reduce distraction.

- Have a list of questions, but still let the conversation take its natural twists and turns.

- Respect boundaries on topics that may simply be too sensitive.

- Don't push the interviewee if you sense facts and details are not as you may know them. Just do follow-up research to establish accuracy if possible.

- Even when an interview is going well between parties, don't keep it going forever. Stop at a natural breakpoint and plan to have another follow-up interview.

- If you cannot meet face-to-face and phone or email will not work, then fall back to old fashioned pen and paper via regular mail. Supply the interviewee with a questionnaire and a pedigree chart and have them write their answers. Still try to reconnect with a face-to-face follow-up to review material provided by the interviewee.

Oral history is critical in your research. It should be the first thing you do as you embark on becoming the family historian. Your online research can wait. Your face to face capturing of stories cannot wait because you are always at risk of having the person with the most knowledge and stories pass away at an untimely moment. Don't wait to capture the stories from still-living relatives.

+ +
+ +

Handout #10 – "SHOULD YOU LEARN THE LANGUAGE OF YOUR ANCESTORS?"

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the September/October 2016, Volume 2, Number 4 issue of Your Genealogy Today.

* *

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled "Should You Learn the Language of Your Ancestors?'. The author of this article is Barbara Krasner.

For many of us, the question might be a moot point. We speak English. Our ancestors might be English going back a long time. All the records we look at are written in English. Case closed. For many others, we may have our backs up against the wall once we complete looking at United States Census Records. Perhaps our next set of records we look at will be Birth records on an LDS microfilm for a particular village in Poland we gleamed from some American church records where a place of origin was noted.

The author uses her own example of coming across some Polish records on microfilm and basically feeling lost after seeing so much more information in Polish after the name of the ancestor she discovered. What about the information of that information?

Do you need to learn the language of your ancestor? The author thought it would be a good question to ask other genealogy research friends of the author to gather their opinion. Here is some of the feedback provided by those friends:

- No You Don't

    - One friend who had been doing research for over 25 years said she did not know how to speak Italian, the language associated with the records she often frequented. The researcher said she picked up certain phrases early on examining Italian records and could then apply the learned phrases into all future Italian document research. If you attempt to learn the language, you then need someone else to practice with. That may be too difficult.

    - Another researcher noted you need to learn enough of the language in order to become familiar with vital documents, but you do not need to become fluent in the language. This still makes us rely on someone to translate those documents we cannot do our self with the limited phrase knowledge we may have accumulated.

- Yes You Do

    - Keeping alive a language skill just makes it that much easier to transition to the documents.

    - Knowing the language allows you to pick up subtle pieces of information in the written language that might go unnoticed.

- **Mixed Reaction – Maybe Yes, Maybe No**
  - We should at least learn how to pronounce the letters of the alphabet of the language of interest for our research.

The author also mentioned what are some good tools of translation to consider if you do not know how to speak a foreign language connected with your research interests. Several guides are available and should become the tools of the researcher. Here are some mentioned by the author:

- (Polish) *In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin and Russian Documents* by Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman.

- (Polish) *Translation Guide to Nineteenth Century Polish Language Civil Registration Documents (Birth, Marriage and Death Records)* by Judith R. Frazin

- (Italian) *Tracing Your Italian Ancestors* from the publishers of Your Genealogy Today.

- (German) *German-English Genealogical Dictionary* by Ernest Thode.

Obviously, there are workarounds. You develop some short learned version of the language to get you through documents. You can find a guide, both published and via searching online, especially what you may be able to find at the FamilySearch Wiki. Knowing a language deeper can get you so much further in your own research. You can pick up subtleties of the language in the writings. You don't have to seek a translator. But realistically what are the chances of you just learning another language in short order. Probably slim to none. If it has been working for you already not knowing a language, just keep up the process and add finer skills to your language repertoire.

+ +
+ +