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## December 13, 2016 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our December 13, 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](http://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](http://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 WILL BE ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2017**

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society will take place on Saturday morning, January 7, 2017. The program for the morning is titled **“German Immigration to the United States”**. The speaker for the morning will be **Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, CG**.

Germans began immigrating to the United States in 1683, according to documented history. This talk will highlight significant aspects of the first four major waves of migration, through 1910. The areas from which they came, and motivations that typified each wave will be detailed. Available immigration and emigration records help tell the immigrant’s story. Laws changed over time and impacted various aspects of the immigration experience.

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 JANUARY 18, 2017

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, January 18, 2017. ***(There is NO program scheduled during December 2016.)*** The program scheduled for that evening is ***"Find My Past"***. The speaker for the program will be **Debra Dudek**.

You may visit the society's web page at:

[www.dcgs.org](http://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.

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**Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGGNI) NEXT PROGRAM ON JANUARY 21, 2017 AT SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY**

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, January 21, 2017 at the Schaumburg Township District Library in Schaumburg, IL. The program scheduled for this day is **"Newspaper Necessities"**. The speaker will be **Tina Beaird**.

Newspapers hold an astonishing amount of genealogical and local history information other than obituaries. Learn how to find the hidden gems in newspapers like claim day notices, cards of thanks, society news, tax notices and more. Learn how to locate digital copies of original newspapers as well as what online indexes and abstracts exist.

Tina Beaird is the Genealogy/Local History Librarian at a midsize Chicagoland public library and owner of Tamarack Genealogy. She provides lectures on genealogical research, archival preservation, and Illinois history at national, state and local conferences. She is a governing board member of the Oswego Heritage Association and also volunteers her time with several local historical and genealogical societies.

You may visit the organization web page at:

[www.CAGGNI.org](http://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 JANUARY 10, 2017**

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, January 10, 2017.

Our guest speaker for the evening, Tina Beaird, will present a program titled "Newspaper Necessities".

Newspapers hold an astounding amount of genealogical and local history information other than obituaries. Learn how to find the hidden gems in newspapers like claim day notices, cards of thanks, society news, tax notices and more. Learn how to locate digital copies of original newspapers as well as what online indexes and abstracts exist.

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](http://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.

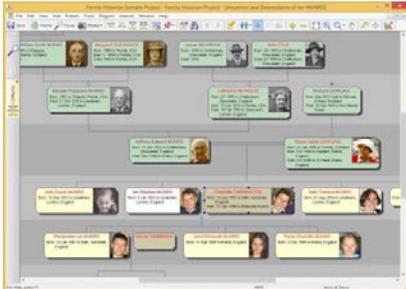
You can also visit the Genealogy Blog of the library that is authored by Tony Kierna. Visit the blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com> for all things related to genealogy and the genealogy programs at the Schaumburg Township District Library and other libraries.

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## Handout #6 – THE ARGUMENT FOR BUILDING AN OFFLINE VERSION OF YOUR FAMILY TREE

*The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated October 26, 2016.*

I am a big fan of storing all sorts of personal data, including my family tree, both online and also offline (in my computer's hard drive). I like online access because of the increased security (assuming it is encrypted), the automatic backups, and the ease of access to the information when traveling, even when traveling to a local genealogy society meeting.



Simon Orde, the owner of the colorfully named company Calico Pie, has a different viewpoint. After all, he and his company produce **Family Historian**, one of the very popular genealogy programs for Windows. Simon has written an article that provides his opinions of online versus offline storage. I will say that his article makes a lot of sense.

If you have an interest in the topic, I suggest you read *The Argument for Building an Offline Version of Your Family Tree* by Simon Orde that has been published in the Findmypast web site at: <https://goo.gl/SzM1Qj>.

### **Comments by Tony Kierna**

*My experience offering guidance to researchers seeking help from me is that more and more are foregoing using lineage software on their desktop and uploading 100% of their family research online. This is just a fact of our times when they are exposed to websites offering such services in routine. These researchers often simply are not aware of lineage based family trees on desktops or laptops.*

*My own experience has been just the opposite. When my research started there was no online uploading of family trees. As you researched you utilized family tree lineage software on your desktop. I am a Mac user on my home machine and for at least 15 years have been using a lineage product called Reunion. It is produced by Leister Productions. Luckily, this product has been around the entire time of my research and I have been lucky it has not disappeared as so many lineage software products have. It has always had a reputation as being the best of the best of Mac lineage software.*

While online trees are fully functional to allow you to upload new names with lots of information, there can often be limitations on what actions can be done with the uploaded material. Desktop lineage software is very powerful and for the most part often goes unused by the user.

For today's researchers that are exclusively uploading their data with no data residing on desktop based machines in lineage programs, just using a desktop as a backup storage of your online family tree is well-worth it. As the article above points out, there is even more power in a desktop lineage software product such as:

- The ability to use the power of desktop lineage software for the myriad of charts and reports that can be created.
- You can create books or booklets on your family tree with the inclusion of the supporting citations material as to where research was gathered.
- You can generate family tree CDs or DVDs to share with other family.
- You can often create family tree websites through the power of a desktop lineage program.

I know that for me personally I have been able to do very detailed searches on my data, looking for very specific combinations of information among those in my database. Perhaps, I wanted to find all occurrences where I am not consistent in using a location of an ancestor. Maybe I started out using just "Cook County, Illinois" but then realize I should use a standard entry process in all of my data of "United States, Illinois, Cook County, Chicago" for all my entries that are applicable to that description. I can search my data looking for any entry containing just Cook County and find maybe 50 results. For those I can change the entry to the longer one I want and apply it to all those that I found in my search. I do not believe the power of online family trees allows for such activities.

One nice thing about online family trees is that they allow you to download your data solely added online to a GEDCOM file. If you purchase a lineage product, you can then download the online material and incorporate it into your desktop lineage program. As for me, once I have already created my research on my desktop, I can then always upload it online wherever and whenever I want and know that if that online service disappears, I will still have my full data in my desktop lineage program.

I agree with the author of the article in the above post from Dick Eastman. Always better to have more of your data in different locations than less. Also always better to be able to do more with your data in a desktop lineage product than less in your online data.

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## Handout #7 – TALK TO YOUR FAMILY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

*The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated November 16, 2016.*



Many of us will be enjoying dinners and other festive occasions this month and next with our relatives. I would suggest this is a great time to compare notes with the relatives. Indeed, older members of the family may know a few tidbits of genealogy information that you have not yet found. However, there is another, more serious, reason for comparing notes with relatives: family health hazards.

Compiling a family tree can offer more benefits than discovering stories of war heroes or family dramas; science and preventive medicine are getting a look in, too. The skeleton in the cupboard could be a genetic predisposition towards disease that, once uncovered, might provide potentially life-saving indicators.

Many of us are becoming aware that a lot of health problems are inherited. If your ancestors had a significant health problem, people seated at your dinner table might want to know that. Awareness of health issues is critical for many inherited medical problems.

A family medical history can't predict your future health. It only provides information about risk. Other factors — such as your diet, weight, exercise routine, and exposure to environmental factors — also affect your risk of developing certain diseases. However, if all family members are aware of problems that “run in the family,” they might be motivated to focus on diet, weight, exercise routine, and exposure to environmental factors. A family medical history helps document familial patterns that might have an impact on your health, such as trends towards specific types of cancer, early heart disease, or even something simple such as skin problems.

The first step for most people is to draw up their medical family tree. The holidays would seem to be an excellent chance to get started, when many family members assemble together. Keep in mind, however, that some loved ones might be uncomfortable disclosing personal medical information, perhaps due to guilt, shame, or a reluctance to face painful memories. Also, as you collect information about your relatives, respect their right to confidentiality.

Compiling a family medical history can help you and your doctor to discuss which medical tests to undergo or early-screening groups to join, or even to help with diagnosis of a rare condition.

### Comments by Tony Kierna

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have already passed. You will have the opportunity to pursue this topic for the upcoming Christmas gathering. It is a good thing that I made a blog post within my library blog about family history and family gatherings, not specifically about medical queries. In fact, I have repeated this blog post over the years. It was one of my earliest posts ever created when I started the blog in November 2009. It has universal appeal and is timeless. You can find my blog post about family history and family gatherings:

#### [Tony Kierna Blog Post About Family Gatherings and Family History](#)

Family gatherings allow you the opportunity to politely bring up that you are the family historian. As such, you often seek the insights of family to share with you whatever the family stories are that they have. These stories are often the starting point of your own research on them to try to determine the validity and accuracy of what you have been told.

The article above takes the capturing of family stories in a more specific direction related to medical information rather than just general information. I am sure that this can be a dicey kind of inquiry to family members sort of the same vein as politics which we often tend to want to avoid at family gatherings. Yet discovering medical anomalies that seem to carry forth through generations can be a life-saving experience for the researcher and other family members connected to the researcher.

Sometimes the medical information can be discovered simply by doing the research. Sometimes hints and clues from family members living contemporaneously is a good and fast starting point.

We live in a world of genetics today and inheritable traits including medical aspects of life. We are aware of genes related to women having greater likelihood of having breast cancer. I believe the connections in that case probably started to someone seeing certain families having such tendencies over many generations. It was then that the advances of genetics allowed researchers to discover specifics of gene inheritance that put certain women in medical harms ways when they have certain genetic combinations that lead to the likelihood of developing breast cancer.

Think of colon cancer. I am not aware of having recent ancestors having passed away from that disease. Yet my wife's father died of the disease. For me, not having a family history of colon cancer allows me to plan to have a colonoscopy in 10 year intervals. For my wife's side of the family, they are told to have a colonoscopy in 5 year intervals.

Yes, it may be challenging to raise the question at family gathering about medical knowledge they may have of family members having certain illnesses. Perhaps they feel it is not the right place to speak about it at family gatherings. Offer to be available to speak of such things in a one-on-one manner in private. Perhaps, as you speak to family members, you too will start being aware of family patterns of certain illnesses and diseases recurring over time. Just knowing this can put you in a better position to minimize such recurrences where they can be minimized by your

own actions. Or, you may discover, genetics has developed new testing to allow you to discover if you have a genetic disposition to a certain illness or disease.

*This is one of the cases to not be shy as the family historian. Put the question out there politely. Offer yourself for one-on-one discussions, not so much as someone offering medical advice, but rather to capture these stories and see if there is in fact a pattern that applies to the family line.*

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## Handout #8 – VIRTUAL GRIEVING WITH A SMARTPHONE

*The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com) dated November 21, 2016.*

A church in Kent, England, will allow friends and family all over the world to mourn the passing of their loved ones by live-streaming their funerals. The Kent and Sussex Crematorium and Cemetery, in Tunbridge Wells, is installing a camera so that mourners who are unable to physically attend a funeral will be able to pay their respects by watching it from their laptops, tablets or smartphones.



*Getty Images/iStockphoto*

Registrar Ken Dry said: "The webcasting facility is a service that we hope will be of help to families and friends who are unable to attend a funeral, perhaps because they live too far away."

Details may be found at <https://goo.gl/2IAkgR>.

I like technology but must admit that some old-fashioned ideas are still best. I am not sure I would attend a funeral virtually. Would you?

### **Comments by Tony Kierna**

*You know it is only a matter of time for such a new thing as this to start happening. We live in a world of "live streaming" our activities. Think of us doing a "live" Face Time chat with family on our iPhones. That is streaming on a one to one basis to see and talk to family. Think of Go to Meeting. Yes, the service can offer conference like streaming capabilities to many individuals at one time connected a live webinar in process. Think of Netflix and the ability to stream movies of our choice to our "smart" large screen TVs.*

*Streaming is now the big buzz word. More and more companies and businesses are now making such services available as enhancers to their services being offered to customers. While the above particular use of streaming may sound and seem weird, it really does fulfill a nice purpose to those that are unable to attend a funeral service because of distance, travel and cost. For most of us, we believe streaming is something we access for free. The article in the link above notes that in order to attend such a funeral service, there will be a fee to cover such costs. I guess you can think of it like a subscription cost to Netflix. The funeral service is only available to those accessing it via a secure site with login ID and password.*

Those that are developing this service in England also recognize that such a service could very well impact actual attendance at funeral services being done in this way in the future. Think of it this way. Maybe you are not feeling good that day and live locally. It can be a great option to attend via streaming rather than getting out of bed, getting dressed up, driving to the funeral parlor, going to a church service etc. Maybe you just start thinking that this becomes the new way to attend such services. Why go in person at all when you can sit back in home at just be a passive viewer.

What's next for streaming? How about weddings? How about a home graduation party? I guess just about anything we can think of today could be a candidate for streaming tomorrow. Perhaps only the immediate participants will attend for the benefit for many viewers. How do you think that would go over?? Is this all headed for an entertainment perception like the master of streaming called Netflix? What is the benefit of a family being the only ones in front of a camera streaming an event for the benefit of home viewers? Are we losing all of our connections to actual face-to-face meeting with family and friends just because we can do so much online?

I guess many of you could say "Hope Not" while I am sure many could also say "Why Not". With technology, once the genie is out of the box you cannot put him back in. While funerals in England with a certain funeral director are going to be trialed by streaming in 2017, who knows where the future will take us with or without normal person-to-person interactions in a real face-to-face setting?

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## Handout #9 – “MINING POST CIVIL WAR RECORDS – MORE THAN PENSIONS AND OLD SOLDIERS’ HOMES”

*The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the November/December 2016, Volume 2, Number 5 issue of Your Genealogy Today.*

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I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “Mining Post Civil War Records – More Than Pensions and Old Soldiers Homes!”. The author of the article is Diane L. Richard.

The author in the article notes how so much more information of your Civil War era ancestor can be found outside of the pure military records if that ancestor served. The author notes that her ancestral research was connected to one having served in the Confederacy. She states that there are similar records to be discovered for those ancestors that may have served in the Union military. The author also refreshes us with what records are available if your ancestor were in the military during this time and other military benefit records associated with that ancestor:

- **Military Oriented Records**
  - Compiled Service Records (CSRs) accessible via Ancestry.com, FamilySearch and Fold3
  - There may have even been homes for the wives/widows of soldiers and sailors that served in the military
- Hospital Records
  - Transcribed Confederate hospital records can be found at [www.onhgs.org/confedhosp.htm](http://www.onhgs.org/confedhosp.htm)
  - Have you looked for hospital records?
- **Artificial Limbs**
  - Many programs existed to supply artificial limb or to pay money for lost limb.
  - “Life and Limb” (US National Library of Medicine Exhibition) at [www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/lifeandlimb/index.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/lifeandlimb/index.html)
  - Looks like about a 50/50 split between disabled servicemen accepting a limb versus taking money instead.
  - Have you checked for artificial limb records?
- **Legislative Petitions**
  - A returning serviceman may have utilized a legislator to seek help and assistance through the passage of legislation on behalf of that individual.
  - In 1891 the author discovered that legislation was proposed for an ancestor to grant relief. Unfortunately, the bill was tabled

and never brought forth again. However, the paper trail of the attempt shed more light on the circumstances of the ancestor.

- Have you pursued legislative records?
- **County Lists of Pensioners**
  - Servicemen may have received a pension from the Federal government, but states at the county level often produced records of those receiving a pension to verify that they were in fact still alive and entitled to receive the pension.
  - These lists were updated to account for those passing away. Those noted as having passed away can provide insights as to actual date of death when some counties and states were still not mandating death certificates as a civil record.
  - Did your locale publish lists of pensioners? Have you consulted these?
- **Provisions Supplied Indigent Families of Volunteers**
  - A wife may have applied for assistance while her husband was in the military service.
  - Food supplies often provided to the wife while husband was serving.
    - Bacon, meal, salt and beef received commensurate with what other wives were receiving based on family size.
  - Have you pursued ration records or other types of poor relief records?
- **Maps**
  - Gilmer and Hotchkiss Maps provide great access to Civil War era maps at [www.loc.gov/collection/civil-war-maps/about-this-collection](http://www.loc.gov/collection/civil-war-maps/about-this-collection)
  - Have you considered how Civil War maps might help your research?
- **1867 Voter Registration**
  - First lists to include whites, free persons of color and freed slaves.
  - Florida lists at [www.floridamemory.com/collections/election1867](http://www.floridamemory.com/collections/election1867)
  - Texas lists at [www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/votersreg.html](http://www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/votersreg.html)
  - Have you checked out the 1867 Voter Registration records for your state?

The author also included a large sidebar with a list of valuable websites to help the researcher in Civil War era research. Some relate to military service, some relate to the era and could apply to non-military individuals. The list is:

- National Archives @ [www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war](http://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war)
- Ancestry.com @ [www.ancestry.com/cs/civilwarrecords](http://www.ancestry.com/cs/civilwarrecords)

- Fold3 @ <http://go.fold3.com/records/civil-war>
- FamilySearch @ <http://familysearch.org/civil-war>
- National Park Service, Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System @ [www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-soldiers.htm](http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-soldiers.htm)
- Southern Claims, Confederate and Union Citizens Files (check NARA, Ancestry.com and fold3)
- Library of Congress – Civil War Maps @ [www.loc.gov/collection/civil-war-maps/about-this-collection](http://www.loc.gov/collection/civil-war-maps/about-this-collection)
- NOAA Civil War Collection @ [www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/history/CivilWar](http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/history/CivilWar)
- U.S. Military Old Soldiers Home Records (FamilySearch Wiki) @ [http://familysearch.org/wiki/en/US\\_Military\\_Old\\_Soldiers\\_Home\\_Records](http://familysearch.org/wiki/en/US_Military_Old_Soldiers_Home_Records)
- Freedman’s Savings and Trust Records (FamilySearch Wiki) @ [http://familysearch.org/wiki/en/African\\_American\\_Freedman's\\_Savings\\_and\\_Trust\\_Company\\_Records](http://familysearch.org/wiki/en/African_American_Freedman's_Savings_and_Trust_Company_Records)
- Ancestor and his artificial limb @ <http://upfront.ngsgenealogy.org/2015/12/have-you-gone-out-on-limb-have-you.html>
- Pennsylvania Civil War Era Newspaper Collection @ <http://digitalnewspapers.libraries.psu.edu/Default/Skins/civilwar/Client.asp?skin=civilwar&AW=1415734743909&AppName=2>
- Harper’s Weekly Original Civil War Newspapers @ [www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/the-civil-war.htm](http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/the-civil-war.htm)
- The Valley of the Shadow – Civil War-Era Newspapers of Virginia @ <http://valley.lib.virginia.edu/VoS/newspapers/opening.html>
- Library of Virginia, Civil War Newspapers @ [www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/Civil-War/Newspapers.htm](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/Civil-War/Newspapers.htm)
- Richmond Daily Dispatch, 1860-1865 @ <http://dlxs.richmond.edu/d/ddr>

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## Handout #10 – “LEARN FROM MY MISTAKE: PROTECT YOUR TREASURED HEIRLOOMS”

*The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the November/December 2016, Volume 2, Number 5 issue of Your Genealogy Today.*

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I thought that another interesting article in this issue is one titled “Learn from My Mistake: Protect Your Treasured Heirlooms!”.

In a nutshell, we all have some varieties of heirlooms of our ancestors in our possession. Something old passed down to us. Maybe it or they are not organized in as good a fashion as we would like. But we have this memorabilia.

The author of this article also had his fair of family memorabilia collected over the years. But something happened to all of this material in the possession of the author. Something unimaginable. Something that could happen to any of us.

All of his memorabilia was stolen! Worse yet, the author was able to agonize over the event because he could see the trail of disarray in his house as the burglar went room to room looking for what he thought were valuable items. Some items stolen in one room were discovered in another room as the burglar felt he had discovered something even more valuable.

Items that were stolen were things such as rings, necklaces, bracelets and watches. All of these items had connections to much family history from generations ago. The author was beside himself with grief over the loss. The police indicated that it looks like the burglar got in by prying open a slightly opened window to get relief from the heat. The police also indicated it was unlikely that any of it would ever be recovered.

The author of the article was decimated. He blamed himself for having lost such valuable family history. This article was born out of this event. The author suggested as a reminder to any of us that have such material that we should do the following to safeguard this priceless material:

- Make sure your home is reasonably secure. You can never make it 100% inaccessible, but the more you beef up your security the more likely a potential burglar would move on to easier pickings.
- Take photographs of all of your prized possessions. That can make recovery of found items easier.
- Consider putting the most valuable items in a safety-deposit box at your local bank. Most valuable does not have to equate to dollar value.
- Don't keep these valuables in obvious places. Don't store jewelry in a jewelry box.

While told that it was unlikely the material would ever be recovered, miracles can and do happen! The police noted similarities to other thefts and realized they had a

suspect in mind. They watched the suspect, followed him to a pawn shop, and arrested him as he walked out with cash in hand.

All of the stolen material was recovered from within the pawn shop.

The author was elated ... and lucky! Lesson learned for the author and for all of us. Protect your heirloom valuables.

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