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January 10, 2017 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our January 10, 2017 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 WILL BE ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2017

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society will take place on Saturday morning, February 4, 2017. The program for the morning is titled **“DNA: A Power Tool in the Genealogist’s Tool Box”**. The speaker for the morning will be **Karen Stanbary, CG**.

Learn the many different ways DNA test results can confirm and advance your traditional paper trail research through case examples. Additionally, we will explore the types of DNA tests and the three major testing companies who offer them. Advantages and disadvantages of each company for specific types of research problems will be discussed.

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. The program scheduled for that evening is "Find My Past". The speaker for the program will be Debra Dudek.

Join us for a program on how to use the website "Find My Past" by Debra Dudek

You may visit the society's web page at:

www.dcgcs.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

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 FEBRUARY 14, 2017**

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, February 14, 2017.

Our guest speaker for the evening, Jane Haldeman, will present a program titled "Searching Genealogy Websites Successfully".

The words you type into the box and the way it is typed determine the results you get when using a search engine such as Google, Yahoo or Bing. This PowerPoint presentation teaches how to get what you are searching for. Come explore beyond the most popular websites.

Jane Haldeman is a professional speaker and owner of It's Relative with more than 20 years of research experience. The Chicago area-based genealogist lectures on a wide range of topics both locally and at national conferences. She enjoys speaking about topics including family history technology and genealogy research methodology. Jane has been very active with the genealogical community in Illinois. She was President, Illinois State Genealogical Society; President, Fox Valley Genealogical Society; Registrar, Fort Payne Chapter NSDAR; and Registration Chair, Federation of Genealogical Societies 2016 Conference in Springfield, IL. Jane can be contacted through her website It's Relative (<http://www.itsrelative.net/>) or genealogy@mindsafire.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.

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Handout #6 – HOW NOT TO CLEAN A TOMBSTONE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY!

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated December 12, 2016.

Take a look at the picture below. Do you see something wrong with it? Almost every genealogist will cringe when viewing a picture like this one from FindAGrave.com. Someone apparently used a wire brush to make the engravings on the tombstone easier to read. **AAARRRGGGGHHH!**



The above photo may be seen at <http://findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=pv&GRid=5240794&Pipi=42662882>.

Using a wire brush on a tombstone or any other stone memorial causes irreparable damage! In fact, the damage is so severe that most states in the USA and also governments in many other countries have laws prohibiting such actions. Under the laws of many states, unauthorized tampering with or damaging gravestones is a felony.

It is easy to use FindAGrave to track down the person who uploaded the photograph. However, let's be cautious before making any accusations. There is no evidence to indicate that the person who supplied the photograph is also the same person who used a wire brush to "clean" the tombstone. Perhaps the photographer came by some time after the criminal act took place and snapped a photograph. Perhaps not. I'll leave that investigation to others who are located near the Thomas Cemetery in Grainger County, Tennessee, to find out.

Once damaged, antique tombstones can rarely be returned to their former appearance. Rough brushing or cleaning with harsh chemicals can further weaken or completely destroy the often illegible inscriptions on stones that are already deteriorated because of age and exposure to the elements.

If you are in a cemetery, please do not touch any tombstone, much less historic ones, unless you know what you are doing. You can find dozens of articles online that describe what to do and what not to do. Start at https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=tombstone+care. I can recommend the **Association for Gravestone Studies** web site at

<https://www.gravestonestudies.org> as an excellent resource although some of the other sites may also be very good.

You also might want to read my earlier article at <https://blog.eogn.com/2014/06/01/use-d2-biological-solution-to-clean-gravestones/>.

Until you have been educated in tombstone preservation, **DON'T DO ANYTHING!**

My thanks to newsletter reader John Rees for telling about this crime.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Although the onsite cemetery research aspect of genealogy is temporarily shut down until spring returns to our area, it is critical that we clearly understand those things we should NOT do to gravestones in our quest for information. I would almost suggest that for anyone who has a cemetery kit of pre-chosen tools to bring with them to a cemetery, you may want to remove the wire brush from that kit. The picture above clearly shows you what the effects are of using a wire brush on stone. In fact the picture above looks like the inscription on the tombstone may have already been clear enough to read as is. The wire brush did not seem to enhance the readability and how now permanently disfigured the tombstone.

It is also important to note that the person who took the picture of the tombstone and uploaded it to FindAGrave is more than likely not the same person that disfigured it. In order to upload gravesite information and pictures to FindAGrave you must be registered with them inclusive of an email address. So while it would appear you can trace back to the uploader and identify the person that way, there is no proof the person that uploaded the picture is the same one that damaged the tombstone.

I think it is important for researchers to clearly develop an understanding of what to DO and what NOT to do when doing onsite cemetery research. Yes, it must be tempting to try anything to make the inscription more readable. After all, it is YOUR ancestor. You gave up a good part of your day to spend time at a cemetery and walk away with gobs of new information if only every tombstone was clearly readable. Who's going to know if I gave it that extra hard rubbing to remove the embedded dirt? Who's going to know if I use that sharp knife or wire brush to get that hard to clean dirt out of the inscription?

I say you need to become a better researcher and one that respects those things in life that may be obstacles to your research. Try simple water and rags to clean as best as possible. Try using blunt wood tools to remove dirt and debris from inscriptions. Try reflecting the sun onto a mirror and then to the tombstone inscription to see if that helps more. Try taking a picture of the tombstone for further analysis back home, leaving the tombstone as is. Try talking to the sexton of the cemetery to see if any records exist that might shed light on the inscription on the tombstone.

But most of all, have respect and show discipline. Maybe by doing so, karma itself will find you and pay you back handsomely with information about the site from other sources.

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Handout #7 – IRISHMAN DIES FROM STUBBORNESS, WHISKEY: OBITUARY

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

Continuing along with a series of humorous obituaries, here is a recent one for Chris Connors from Quincy, Massachusetts. Here are a few excerpts:

He lived 1000 years in the 67 calendar years we had with him because he attacked life; he grabbed it by the lapels, kissed it, and swung it back onto the dance floor.

At the age of 26 he planned to circumnavigate the world – instead, he ended up spending 40 hours on a life raft off the coast of Panama.

Most people thought he was crazy for ... dressing up as a priest and then proceeding to get into a fight at a Jewish deli.

His regrets were few, but include eating a rotisserie hot dog from an unmemorable convenience store in the summer of 1986.

The ending might be the best line of all. I won't reveal it here but you can read the obituary in its entirety at <https://goo.gl/HbsWgG>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

My point of bringing this obituary to your attention is not for the pure contents of the obituary itself. Yes, it is humorous. Yes, it is brash. Yes, it paints him as a 100% wild man! You almost get the impression that the deceased really had a ball during his life and in fact you may wonder if he did anything else other than have a wild time!

My point about this obituary is simply that the deceased or his family spent the time to put words to paper to describe the life of the deceased. The point is that you can do something similar and construct your own obituary when you have 100% complete control of it. If you can't do it by yourself because it is hard to think of your mortality, then at least tell a close family member or friend that you can TRUST what words you would like used to describe your life in 500 words or less. I say don't cringe at your own mortality but rather embrace the end that will befall each and everyone of us and WRITE THOSE LAST WORDS YOURSELF.

You are not competing with anyone else's obituary, especially the example of one used above. This is all about you and how you want to construct words that best describes you to a "T".

Some people may celebrate their life with 100% humor in their obituary. Some individuals may celebrate their life with their accomplishments. Some individuals may celebrate their lives through their family, friends, co-workers and others. It is your obituary. Construct it how YOU want it. You can make it similar in tone to the

one linked above or you can make it combinations of your life, your family, your accomplishments. Being genealogists, I would suggest that you incorporate some of your research into it e.g. names of your parents, grandparents, places they immigrated from (if they did), locations they lived etc.

I guess my ultimate point is to consider writing your own obituary now and make sure key people you can trust, know where it is located so it can be implemented. Now is as good a time as any to start the process. How about making it a New Year's Resolution??

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Handout #8 – USING AND COMPILING INDEXES BY JUDY WEBSTER

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

I don't believe this is a new web site but it is new to me. Judy Webster, a keen family historian, has compiled and published many indexes. She has also been employed by Queensland, Australia, State Archives to help with guidelines and data entry/checking for their indexing projects. Judy has created a web site to share practical tips based on her own experience. If you are interested in using indexes, and especially if you are involved in creating indexes, you need to read Judy's advice.

Topics on the web site include:

- How to avoid the traps involved in using indexes.
- **How to compile a good index** (advice for individuals, genealogical groups, family history societies, historical societies and local studies librarians who want to index various types of material).
- **How to publish and promote your index.**

You can find Judy Webster's genealogy tips and indexes at:

<http://www.judywebster.com.au/methods.html>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

You really need to access the link above to the full article! There are some fantastic insights into how to go about using an index. Better yet, there are some incredible helpful tips for realizing what an index is and how individual entries can go very, very wrong in comparison to what the actual pre-indexed records shows to the researcher.

Here is one part of the full article on "Traps Involved in Using Indexes":

Traps involved in using indexes

*These **rules for using indexes** have been selected from a list reported to be from the 'Genealogy Week' section of Antique Week and attributed to James L. Hansen of the State Hist. Soc. of WI, USA.*

- *An index is only an index. It is not a substitute for the record being indexed.*
- *It doesn't matter how you spell the name, it only matters how the indexer spelled it.*
- *In a given record, any vowel may at any point be substituted for any other vowel or consonant.*
- *If you haven't found it in the index, you can only conclude that you haven't found it in the index. You cannot conclude that it's not in the record.*

- Sometimes it is best to ignore the index altogether.

The author also gives some concrete examples of names and entries of real names and how they wound up looking in the index of the material. Rather eye-opening but corresponds to the "Traps" list above on item number 2, "It doesn't matter how you spell the name, it only matters how the indexer spelled it." Examples of poorly indexed data are:

Here are just a few of the many indexing errors I (the author of the indexing article) have seen:

- AVERY incorrectly indexed as HOEY
- INMAN incorrectly indexed as JUMAN
- VEIVERS incorrectly indexed as VEWER
- Ivy incorrectly indexed as Joy
- 'Edmund Carver BRYANT' incorrectly indexed as 'CARVER Edmund'
- 'Michael KELLY (Junior)' incorrectly indexed as 'JUNIOR Michael Kelly'
- 'John SMITH, late of Brisbane' incorrectly indexed as 'LATE John Smith'
- 'Henry BROWN of Helen Street' incorrectly indexed as 'STREET Helen'.

WOW! You have to wonder how these came about. But not really! All the vowels can be interchanged. An "A" that is not closed on the top can certainly look like an "H". An "I" that is elongated at the bottom can look like a "J". Titles, middle names, streets can all be incorrectly brought into looking like part of the name and be wildly indexed.

The examples I am using above pertain to what can be in an existing index of data you are using. Think FamilySearch volunteer indexing of FamilySearch data of all kinds usually in challenging written format.

There is much more in the article about the actual Indexing process and guides to help interpret handwriting needed to form the index. The author has the following inclusion of "Essential Features of a Good Index":

Essential features of a good index

- A good explanation in the preliminary notes. I need to know what I won't find, as well as what I will, and what abbreviations are used. Is it in strict alphabetical order, or only by first letter of surname? What date range has been covered, and were there gaps in the original source?
- An explanation of what to do next (where is the original source?)
- Dates should be rendered in the 'dd mmm yyyy' format - that is, a three-letter month, not all figures, and the year should be four figures.
- Use uppercase for surnames (and only surnames).
- For placenames the State should be explicit, and the country should be included unless it is obvious.
- List every name even when the surname or first name is not known.
- If the original is difficult to read, use cross-references to include all likely interpretations of the spelling.

- *In a family history index, add birth-death dates to help identify each person, and include a location index with standard abbreviations (Chapman County Codes).*
- *Include umlauts and other diacritical marks. (Unfortunately some indexing software strips these out.)*

So next time you are using an index, let some of the above tips filter into your analysis of results or lack thereof. If you are indexing your own material or that of another provider, think about the rules to index the material in the best way possible so searchers can hit homeruns and find all that they can use to help them in their research.

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Handout #9 – “FOLLOW THE RUTS IN THE PATH AND TURN LEFT AT THE PIG HOUSES”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the October-December 2016, Volume 42, Number 4 issue of NGS Magazine.

I thought that an interesting article in this issue is one titled “Follow the Ruts in the Path and Turn Left at the Pig Houses”. The author of this article is Kathy Petlewski, MSLS.

Interesting title! According to the author, the above title phrase is the words given to her that would help her find a local cemetery associated with her ancestors. It was truly a family cemetery in a local rural area on private property. The author was aware of the local farmstead but was not aware that there was a small family cemetery located on the property. The author was able to take the information pertinent to this cemetery and upload the information to FindAGrave. Gravestones were photographed by the author and also appear in FindAGrave.

The author makes a point that this was difficult to discover all the details and that your search for burial locations of your ancestors may not be as difficult. The author thought this exercise was good to bring forth what resources researchers should use to discover the burial locations of your own ancestors.

Death certificates and funeral home records may be at the top of your research list of resources to use to discover burial locations of your ancestors. However, death certificates in the United States were not officially issued until the middle part of the nineteenth century and even when you can obtain one, you may discover that the burial location information is not contained on the certificate.

Even in urban areas mistakes can easily be made. The author relates a personal experience of a relative's death certificate that completely showed an erroneous location of burial because the document reflected the location of the crematorium where the deceased was cared for. The creator of the death certificate assumed burial was in the same location as was the cremation. This is not always the case, but to see an error so obvious because it was “assumed” the location of the crematorium and burial location were one in the same.

Funeral home records can have a wealth of information but you are stuck trying to discover which funeral home was used to bury an ancestor. Old records of previously existing funeral homes may have been passed down to funeral homes that took over the location in a business transaction. Try using the National Directory of Morticians at <https://www.redbookfunerarydirectory.com>. You can search for free by state, county and city to see which funeral homes may have been involved in an ancestor's burial.

Church records can often be used to discover burial information. Older churches may have even had a cemetery right next to them. Families often had church services just prior to burial. These events would generate church records

themselves in addition to the funeral home records. Much of my early research was working with Roman Catholic Church burial records for a particular church that had been microfilmed by the Mormons. If you are lucky to have Roman Catholic ancestors, another trail that was often left were prayer cards that provided information about the person and their death and often their burial location to the level of specific lot and section number information in a particular cemetery.

Newspaper information on obituaries and stories describing the death event are important to investigate. If you are not certain of a town location, try Chronicling America for online digitized newspapers at <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>.

Genealogy Bank is also an online digital newspaper resource. Generally, this product is purchased by libraries rather than individuals. Our own library subscribes to this service. So always ask if your own local library subscribes to this product.

The author also notes the usual resources to consider that are online and popular today:

- Interment.net @ <http://interment.net>
- BillionGraves @ <https://billiongraves.com>
- Find A Grave @ <http://findagrave.com>
- Nationwide Gravesite Locator @ <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>

Always remember that those who upload burial information in FindAGrave will be owners of that information but may not necessarily have any relationship to the deceased and consequently could offer you no help in your research. They just walk the cemetery and capture the information and upload it.

Perhaps you are lucky to discover the burial location from some of the above resources. Now you may want to know where it is located and how to get there to do onsite research. It is a must to call ahead and speak to someone about hours allowed for visitation. Ask for help from the sexton of the cemetery to help you locate the actual gravesite. This can be difficult especially if there is no headstone to help pinpoint the actual location. Larger cemeteries may have more resources to help you find the location on your own. Also be sure you know if the cemetery is publicly accessible or exists on private property. Often times talking with relatives in the area of a private cemetery is the best way to discover information to assist in making a physical connection to actually walk the grounds.

If an ancestor is buried on private property, it is not uncommon that state laws have been passed allowing descendants the right to visit the gravesites. Just make arrangements in advance. If you cannot do that for lack of contact information, then at least make a friendly effort to connect by knocking on the door of the home that sits on the property where the cemetery is located.

Unfortunately, even after doing all the research possible, you may still not have any luck in actually viewing the gravesite. It may be unmarked, it may exist in a completely overgrown cemetery that is not being cared for. Perhaps, if on private property, you may still have difficulties gaining permission to access the property.

Do the best you can in all of your preliminary research of discovery. Accept that viewing the actual gravesite may or may not be possible.

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Handout #10 – “AUGMENTED REALITY: HOW POKEMON GO WILL CHANGE GENEALOGY”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the October-December 2016, Volume 42, Number 4 issue of NGS Magazine.

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled “Augmented Reality: How Pokemon Go Will Change Genealogy”. The author of this article is Thomas MacEntee.

Pokemon Go was a hot app during the summer of 2016. If you were outside, it was not uncommon to see large groups of people walking all around certain areas doing actions related to the app on their phones. The app utilized what is known as augmented reality. It allows a virtual item to be superimposed over a real item or location, merging the virtual with the physical. That is why people were walking around with their cameras on seeing Pokemon characters superimposed on their screen. Pokemon is like a big scavenger hunt. Let me see, what else could be considered a big scavenger hunt. How about genealogy??

How could genealogy work with augmented reality to make genealogy more productive?

The author suggests the following ways that a game like Pokemon, that encourages moving around to make discoveries of game items while viewing the real world, could do some of the following:

- What if augmented reality could be used to entice young visitors to visit archives, libraries and even graveyards. (even in the real world of the summer of 2016, Pokemon and graveyards was causing quite a stir as it was viewed that Pokemon game playing in a cemetery was being considered disrespectful.)
- What if rather than throwing a ball at a virtual character there would be a way to ask a question and get a prize for providing the correct answer?
- What if genealogy organizations used Pokemon Go characters as a way to bring in new visitors?
- What if a Family History Library became a Poke stop?
- Attract Pokemon players to a cemetery in a respectful manner to possibly scan photos of gravesites of important people in that cemetery?
- What if a Pokemon type concept were instituted at large scale genealogy conferences. Attendees can visit vendor booths and collect stamps from the vendors to enter into a raffle contest for a prize.
- How about creating an online scavenger hunt connected to genealogy research? Structure a case study with clues to be discovered by a

student. Make clues dependent on each other and create an order in which the clues must be found.

The author actually suggests that aspects of genealogy have already been "gameified". Vendors encourage users to build family trees to sites for free. The more that is added, the more successful are future searches to make discoveries. Researchers are then happy that they attain success but in essence the researcher is working for free for the vendor contributing much content that seems to make everyone happy!

The author makes the following suggestions as to what would a genealogy augmented app look like if one were developed:

- *Content as augmented reality items to be collected.* An overlay of documents on a physical location such as an ancestral village would be true to the augmented reality concept.
- *Ancestors as augmented reality characters.* Using a reward system, encourage researchers to build a tree based on solid facts, evaluated evidence, and family stories as well as visiting specific locations key to a family's history.
- *Use credits to collect documents and images.* Build a family tree to collect "credits" and then use the credits to purchase documents and images.
- *Enforce good research standards.* If undocumented data is added to a family tree, "credits" are deducted from that individual as the undocumented data is removed. Such a "penalty" system would require researchers to add only documented information or suffer a loss of credits.
- *Reward the use of source citations.* Extra "credits" could be earned if a researcher adds a properly written source to a document or fact in their family tree.
- *Allow monetization of documents.* What if I owned a diary of an ancestor, scanned the pages, and added the index to Ancestry? Perhaps augmented reality items could be created and charge credits to access my documents in order for them to be used in other family trees. Thus, proper credit would be given to the original researcher for using their material.
- *Redeem credits for practical rewards.* Add tangible rewards such as a free Ancestry DNA test or a printed wall chart via MyCanvas that can be accessed once a certain number of "credits" is earned. Rewards programs exist across a broad spectrum of businesses today.

So who would have thought that a playful augmented reality game like Pokemon Go has given us the potential to use it for so many other things in life, especially in a genealogical manner. I guess it just becomes a matter of time when this wildly successful and fun gameing concept finds its way to a genealogical purpose. The success of Pokemon Go has been documented. It is only a matter of time before we see such a concept filter down to other day to day activities.

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