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February 14, 2017 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our February 14, 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, MARCH 4, 2017

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society will take place on Saturday morning, March 4, 2017. The program for the morning is titled **“On and Off the Net: Locality Searching” (Online Webinar)**. The speaker for the morning will be **D. Joshua Taylor**.

Researching by locality is an essential research method for genealogists. **Uncover the best resources (both online and offline) for research by localities.** Highlights of this lecture include a look at the USGenWeb Project and the resources found in genealogical and historical societies.

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 FEBRUARY 15, 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, February 15, 2017. The program scheduled for that evening is "Family History's Navigational Tool: The G.P.S.". The speaker for the program will be Laura Cosgrove Lorenzana.

You may visit the society's web page at:

www.dcgsg.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 FEBRUARY 18, 2017 AT SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, February 18, 2017 at the Schaumburg Township District Library in Schaumburg, IL. The program scheduled for this day is **"New Sources for British Isles Research"**. The speaker will be **Paul Milner**.

Learn what new primary and secondary sources have become available and how to access them. Keep up to date on the constantly changing face of British Isles research by learning about recently released original records, new indexes, books and web sites.

Paul Milner, a native of northern England is an author of six publications, a professional genealogist and international lecturer. Paul has specialized in British Isles genealogical research for over 35 years. He is the course coordinator and instructor for the English and Scottish tracks at the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research (IGHR) plus has taught at the British Institute in Salt Lake City. He has lectured extensively in the US, Australia, Canada and England, plus on genealogy cruises.

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 MARCH 14, 2017

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

We will have another “break-out” session for our gathering on March 14, 2017. Our previous attempts proved to be quite a good success. I would like us to build on those successes and afford those participants the opportunity to meet with those again or sample other groups.

After an initial introduction of new participants at the start of our normally scheduled meeting, we will establish our “breakout” groups at approximately 7:45 PM. We would have these breakout discussions from about 8:00 PM until about 9:30 PM. These groups would consist of about 7 to 8 participants. They would discuss some common topic of genealogy that interests them or from which they could learn even more to assist their research from sharing with others in the group and learning from others within the group.

The groups we previously tried seemed to work out quite well. I want to go with those same groups and am open to suggestions to attempt to add others or delete those that may not have a following.

I want to reconvene the following groups:

- Polish Researchers
- German Researchers
- Czech Researchers
- Irish Researchers
- Italian Researchers
- British Researchers
- Scandinavian Researchers
- Colonial Americans Researchers
- DNA/Adoption Researchers (NEW!)

I also will have a Beginner’s Group that I will lead.

We will also have the computer in the room for anyone to access the internet.

I would also encourage participants to bring their personal laptop or netbook to these sessions and tap into the internet via our WiFi network. I saw many researchers doing this at our last breakout session and they found it very productive to access internet information while being in one of the groups if they wanted to show something to someone else at the table.

Please remember that the group’s composition is based on the numbers that will participate. If only one person is present to participate in the Polish group, then we cannot have a Polish group that evening. I cannot guarantee there will be enough participants to form a group. In that case I would always recommend participating in another ethnic group of interest if that is also in your research interests or join me at the Beginner’s Group.

The key to this effort is to be flexible in selecting a group to work with.

I look forward to our next "break-out" session on March 14, 2017.

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 – ELLIS ISLAND CELEBRATES 125TH ANNIVERSARY

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated January 2, 2017.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [January 2, 2017](#) · [History](#) · [No Comments](#)

Ellis Island opened as the nation's main immigrant processing center 125 years ago on Jan. 1. More than 12 million immigrants passed through the gates of the processing center. The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation says nearly half of all Americans can trace their family roots to a person who passed through Ellis Island.



The 27.5-acre island, part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument, no longer serves as a port of entry for new arrivals but it does greet about 2 million visitors a year, according to its website.

You can read more in an article by Karen Yi at

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2017/01/ellis_island_anniversary.html.

Comments by Tony Kierna

You know we are all getting older when something that we think is fairly recent in our own lifetime announces they are celebrating their 125th anniversary. For such a small location (27.5 acres) it sure has had a massive effect on our country.

Perhaps your own research has connected many of your ancestors' arrival records through Ellis Island. These ancestors would have had to come to Ellis Island between 1892 and about 1924. Only a few of mine came through here. Most arrived in the United States through the port of Baltimore from 1880 to about 1890.

I encourage you to connect to the link above in Dick Eastman's post for the full story on Ellis Island. Here are some highlights I captured from the article:

- *Upper class passengers went through customs and inspection while staying on the ship.*
- *Lower class persons from the ship needed to disembark and get processed while on Ellis Island.*

- 2% of those that arrived at Ellis Island for processing were rejected and returned to their country.
- Ellis Island during World War I and II was used as a detention center for enemy seamen.
- Ellis Island was used by the U.S. Coast Guard as a training center.
- Ellis Island underwent massive restoration and was opened as a Visitor Center in 1990.
- Much of Ellis Island's treatment and medical centers are still in complete disrepair and are not opened to the public.

What a wonderful historic location that connects to about 50% of the U.S. population. I hope your research has uncovered some connection to Ellis Island.

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Handout #7 – NEW U.S. BUDGET MAY AFFECT GENEALOGISTS

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated January 25, 2017.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [January 25, 2017](#) · [Current Affairs, Legal Affairs](#) · [9 Comments](#)

Madge Maril, Associate Editor of *Family Tree Magazine*, has written a brief article in the magazine's blog that warns of the proposed loss of one of genealogy's major tools: the free *Chronicling America* newspaper search website, used by many genealogists to find information about ancestors and other relatives in local newspapers.

The *Chronicling America* web site is a service of the National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH), an independent federal agency funding humanities programs in the United States. Madge Maril points out the new administration's federal budget blueprint proposes elimination of the National Endowment for the Humanities. If that passes, the *Chronicling America* newspaper search website probably will go offline.

You can read Madge Maril's article in the *Family Tree Magazine Blog* at:

<https://goo.gl/Ob0Zlz>

Comments by Tony Kierna

Once again, a great genealogical resource may be in jeopardy of being discontinued. This is only the beginning of the budget process for the U.S. government, but one of the items that is already talked about of being continued is the National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH).

Unfortunately, one of the resources within this governmental entity is Chronicling America, a digital newspaper service that allows you to search newspapers from all over the country. You can find the site here <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>. You can search all states from 1789 to 1924. Some newspapers may be contained in this site in great amounts over long periods of time and some newspapers may have just a few issues. I find the site to be wonderful and easy to search as well as easy to see the digital images of the results. There is a basic search process at the site as well as an advanced ability to search and filter results.

As an example, if I do a search for my last name KIERNA and limit it only to Illinois papers for 1789 to 1924, I do get 2 hits, one of which is a very tragic report on the death of one of my ancestors. As reported in the May 27, 1914 issue of the Rock Island Argus from Rock Island, IL, a Marie KIERNA was killed in a motorcycle accident. She is not in my direct line but comes from one of the lines of a great-uncle. This was on the front page of the newspaper for the day. When searching the newspapers, if you do get any hits, the term you used to search is highlighted on the digital newspaper image so you can easily zoom in on the article.

Just like with all scanning of newspapers you may get mixed results on your hits. As an example, I used FICHT as the surname used in a search. I received results. However, when I started looking at the results in the actual newspaper, I noticed that there were frequent hits for FICHT that turned out to have been in print as the word FIGHT. No one is immune from this kind of error. This is what digital scanning of newspapers can create.

You can actually click on a "text" selection for printing to print from your browser. This may not be the best way because you will get the entirety of the page converted to text. You can still find your story with the results and then copy and paste the text that applies to you. You will just have to scroll through excessive amounts of non-applicable text. You can also save the page as a PDF or a JPEG to see the full digital image of the page. You just have to know where the story is since the search term will no longer be highlighted.

So, just in case this wonderful resource is lost through budgeting changes, I at least want you to be aware of it and even give it a try. The fact that your search term is highlighted in the digital image at least allows you to quickly take a look and determine if it is accurate with the actual text in the newspaper.

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Handout #8 – ONLINE GENEALOGY DICTIONARIES AND OTHER REFERENCES

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated December 30, 2016.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [December 30, 2016](#) · [Genealogy Basics, Online Sites](#) · [4 Comments](#)

The Web is fast replacing reference books. References to almost any information can be found online quickly. In fact, it is often faster to look up information online than to look in a book already on your bookshelf. Of course, an online lookup is also much cheaper than purchasing a reference book.

Here are some reference sites that I have found to be useful to genealogists:

Abbreviations Found in Genealogy:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~rigenweb/abbrev.html> and the *Encyclopedia of Genealogy* at <http://www.eogen.com>.

A List of Occupations, many of which are archaic:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~usgwkidz/oldjobs.htm>.

Archaic Medical Terms: Rudy's List of Archaic Medical Terms at

<http://www.antiquusmorbus.com/>, *Cyndi's List of Medical Terms* at <http://www.cyndislist.com/medical#Diseases>, a list of archaic medical terms and meanings used in various English speaking countries at http://www.genproxy.co.uk/old_medical_terms.htm, and the *Encyclopedia of Genealogy* at <http://www.eogen.com>.

The Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names:

<http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabulary/tgn/index.html>

The Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), developed by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN), contains information about almost 2 million physical and cultural geographic features in the United States: <http://geonames.usgs.gov/index.html>

Glossar: Die Familie: English-German glossary of terms frequently found in genealogy research: <http://www.univie.ac.at/voelkerkunde/cometh/glossar/heirat/h-menu.htm>

Meanings and origins of first names – an etymology (the origin of words) and list of the most popular names: <http://www.behindthename.com/>

Cemetery Junction Directory – A directory of more than 50,000 cemeteries. Search by cemetery and family name. Links to obituaries and genealogical societies in the U.S, Australia, and Canada: <http://daddezio.com/cemetery/>

A Glossary Of Terms Used In Heraldry (coats of arms):

<https://www.heraldsnet.org/saitou/parker/index.htm>

Where to Write for Vital Records – Addresses and guidelines for contacting each U.S. state or territory for vital records and documents:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm>

There are many, many more such lists online. You should be able to find them with any search engine. However, the above is a list of the ones I keep handy. If you have others that you like, post them to the end of this article and I will update the list.

Thank you.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Dick Eastman is so correct regarding the easy availability of genealogy reference material being online. Yes, there are plenty of books that still exist in our collection that can help you answer research questions. If you are in our library when your question comes up, you can track down an answer from the genealogy reference resources that we have.

But when you are not here and your question comes up at 11 pm when you are doing some research then where do you turn? To online resources as identified by Dick above.

Say you are looking at some digital images of records and you see the name of your ancestor in let's see a church death record. What if you saw "o.c." associated with your answer. Cryptic, yes? Using the RootsWeb.com Abbreviations link you may actually discover that "o.c." could mean "only child" in the context of the record you view.

Say you are looking at some digital records of an ancestor that you clearly know they have indicated the person's occupation. What do you make of the occupation "bowdler" for your ancestor? Using the RootsWeb "A List of Occupations" link above you would discover that a "bowdler" is one who worked with iron ore.

Say you were looking at a very old death record of an ancestor and the cause of death was noted as "white throat". Sounds descriptive for the time but what is it? Using "Rudy's List of Archaic Medical Terms" you would discover that the person died of Diphtheria.

Say you discovered an ancestor's first name as "Dorothea". Maybe you are curious where did it come from, what is the history behind such a name. Using www.behindthename.com listed above you would discover that it means "gift of god" and it had its origin in Greece.

Say you are doing either United States, Canadian or Australian research on a deceased ancestor. You see a record associated for your deceased ancestor that identifies a cemetery. Say the ancestor died in the United States. Perhaps the cemetery was identified as "St. Adalbert". Try using the "Cemetery Junction Directory" listed above with the cemetery name to find out the exact location of that cemetery.

Say you are trying to track down some vital records for an ancestor. Try using the "Where To Write for Vital Records" link above. Select your state. See the details for requesting a birth, marriage, death, or dissolution of marriage record. See if you can do this through the state's Department of Health organization that is often the keeper of such data. Or this resource may tell you to determine the county where you need to make the request.

Your genealogy research answers may simply be at the tips of your fingers. Check out the above sites yourself. Bookmark them for future reference. These may be the first place you turn to when you need to answer that perplexing discovery on an ancestor's document.

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Handout #9 – “genealogyDOTcoach”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the December 2016/January 2017, Volume 11, Number 5 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that a very interesting article in this issue is one titled “genealogyDOTcoach”. The author of the article is George. G. Morgan.

Stuck on your genealogy?? Hit a brick wall?? This happens to all of us. Most of us just keep plodding along hoping and praying that some new record will appear online that will solve our research problem. Sometimes we are lucky. Sometimes we just move on to another part of our family tree. Or worse, we just lose interest in our family history research.

A traditional solution to overcoming our problems has often been to hook up with a professional genealogist who can then do the research for you to overcome your research problems. Oftentimes this can easily run into the hundreds of dollars. Maybe you are already a very good researcher who could just use a little help that may allow you to break through and continue on with your own research efforts.

And so was born “genealogyDOTcoach” that you can find at <http://genealogy.coach>.

This service is intended to offer that extra little bit of genealogy research help from professionals that just might allow you to break through on your research obstacles, allowing you to jump back in and continue your own research.

This service started with 26 “coaches”, many of the names being names you might be familiar with in the genealogical community, e.g. Lisa Alzo, Blaine T. Bettinger, Cyndi Ingle, George G. Morgan, Drew Smith, Diahn Southard, Maureen Taylor and others. Better still, is you do not just select a coach and hope that person is familiar with your specific area of subject/ethnic interest. The group has also created a list of 46 specialty topic areas, e.g. American Mid-West states, African American Genealogy, English Genealogy, Italian Genealogy, Polish Genealogy, DNA and Genetics and many others.

The 26 current coaches are all professionals from around the world. Each has an average of 25 years of training and experience.

So you are stuck in your research. You look at the above site and see that there is a specialty topic that matches your needs along with the name of one of the coaches for that specialty. Look at the biography for each coach. Look at the comments left by users of the specialty area for a particular coach that provided the help. How does this service work?

Select a “coach” you think that may work best with you. Look at their individual calendar of the days and times when they are available. You can book sessions with them for 15, 30 or 60 minutes. Pricing starts for as little as \$15 for 15 minutes. The fees per a 15 minute session can vary by individual coach. I looked and I saw some

fees at \$25 per 15 minutes and even \$30 for 15 minutes. Just by browsing the site I was not able to see prices for 30 minute and 60 minute sessions. Apparently, that will become known when you go through the process of booking a coach for a 30 minute or 60 minute session.

You are happy with what you see and you go ahead and book a session with a coach. During the booking you want to provide some information about your research and where you are stuck to allow the coach to do some preliminary research on your issue before the actual "coaching" session.

Shortly before the coaching session, you will receive an email link that will allow you to log in to a private video chat room at the scheduled date and time for the session. Suggestions will be provided from your coach as to what other online and brick and mortar institutions to consider advancing your research. Your coach may make you aware of specific document types that you perhaps were not aware of during your research efforts.

After your session, you are encouraged to return to your coach's page to leave a review and comments about your experience. If your experience was satisfactory with a particular coach, you can always make future appointments with that coach.

The best part of this service is that you can seek professional help in smaller and less expensive increments of cost to you. And that is all that it may take for you to discover a solution to your research brick wall, allowing you to continue to move forward with your own research efforts.

The author did a very good job with this article in letting the genealogy community know that help is out there and is very affordable. The list of professionals is impressive. It is well worth seeing if there is a specialty topic that matches to your needs and at least consider selecting a coach and booking a 15 minute appointment just to see what it is like.

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Handout #10 – “THE ONLINE RELEASE OF IRISH CIVIL REGISTRATION RECORDS”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the December 2016/January 2017, Volume 11, Number 5 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that another very good article in this issue is one titled “The Online Release of Irish Civil Registration Records”. The author of the article is Joe Grandinetti.

For those of you doing Irish research, it is important to really check out the site for this newly released material. Previously, the site had released Roman Catholic Church records. When you get to the site, you will see a series of tabs at the top of the page. It is here that you will be able to see a tab for the Civil Records as well as the tab for the Church records.

You can get to this site at www.irishgenealogy.ie. The data actually started becoming available back in September 2016 and is this article in this journal that really can give researchers a very good overall view of what the data is all about. Here in a nutshell is the high level view of what the data consists of:

- Newly released Civil Registration records contain 2.5 million browseable images.
- Newly released Civil Registration records contain 12.5 individual searchable records.
- Records are freely accessible.
- Birth records cover 1864-1915 (only births 100 years or older allowed).
- Marriage records cover 1882-1940 (only marriages 75 years or older allowed).
- Death records cover 1891-1965 (only deaths 50 years or older allowed).
- There are submission guidelines at the site to have data redacted for those who are alive today and are over 100 years old or for anyone alive today who’s marriage record is over 75 years old. They can submit request to make the data unavailable for viewing for their records.
- You can request copies of the records that are outside the years of what is provided at www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Apply-for-Certificates.aspx.

The author suggests the following methods to best find the information you seek at the site for your Irish ancestors in the Civil Registration records:

- Navigation and Jurisdiction

- Access the tab at the top of the page for the Civil Records and just work your way through the clicks to get to the records.
- It would be very helpful to know the Registration Districts of your ancestors because registration districts can cut across county lines.
- Civil Registration District is the smallest district level to search.
- Both parents names are required to enter into the search.
- You do not need to always search the records if your initial results are not productive. You can browse the records by Registration District.
- Take advantage of wildcard searching using asterisks (*) and question marks (?) in place of letters. Asterisks for more than one letter, question marks for one letter. The author noted that his searches were often formed this way for the surname "McGill" e.g. "m*gill", would allow him to find "McGill", "Mc Gill" and "Magill".
- If you know the Townland of your ancestor's birth, there are some good resources to determine the Registration District. Use resources at John Grenham's website at www.johngrenham.com/places/plu_index.php. Also check out another resource at www.swilson.info/explorerb.php to find Registration Districts.

- **Dates in the Records – Take Them with a Grain of Salt**

- Estimated that 10-15% of people did not bother to register vital events for the first couple of decades after the requirement.
- Compliance improved by the 1880s.
- Dates in the records for events may actually not be accurate because there fines associated for late filings. Hence, registrations often showed dates that were within the guidelines but did not reflect actual date of the event. You can often determine this by looking at the Church records for the same events showing different (actual) dates of the event versus the date for the event in the civil records that would not include a date causing a fine.

- **The Separation of Church and State**

- A child's birthdate in the equivalent baptism record for Catholics often is more accurate than the date registered in the civil records. The accuracy would reflect the religious belief of having a child baptized very soon after birth so in case of death of the child, the child would be able to enter Heaven.
- The author did a study of his own ancestor's birth/baptism record dates and noted that there variances of anywhere from 24 days to 159 days between what baptism records showed for the "birthdate" versus what the civil registration records showed for the birth date. Be aware of these variances and don't always put 100% accuracy in your own ancestors' dates.

- Other Information in the Civil Records
 - Births
 - Place of Birth
 - Maiden name of mother
 - Occupation of father
 - Informant's Name and Residence
 - Marriages
 - Place of Marriage
 - Ages and Residences of couple
 - Names of the Couple's fathers
 - Witnesses
 - Deaths
 - Place of Death
 - Age
 - Occupation
 - Cause of Death
 - Informant's Residence
 - Informant's relationship to deceased
- Summary
 - Visit www.irishgenealogy.ie to start accessing the newly release Civil Registration data.
 - Consult the Civil Registration indexes as needed.
 - Access the tools at John Grenham's website or at www.swilson.info/explorerb.php to locate the Civil Registration District.
 - Compare your Civil Registration finds to church baptisms/christening, marriage and death records using resources such as <http://registers.nli.ie> and www.rootsireland.ie.
 - Review all of the information in the civil registration data, not just the event dates.

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