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May 9, 2017 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our May 9, 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 AUGUST 26, 2017

THE SOCIETY WILL NOT BE MEETING DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY 2017. THEY WILL RE-GATHER AGAIN ON A STILL UNDETERMINED DAY POSSIBLY AT THE END OF AUGUST 2017 INSTEAD OF A SEPTEMBER PROGRAM THAT WOULD CONFLICT WITH LABOR DAY.

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society will take place on Saturday morning August 26, 2017. The program for the morning is titled **"To Be Determined"**. The speaker for the morning will be **To Be Determined**.

This meeting will take place at the Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 W. Central Rd., Arlington Heights, IL 60005 at 10:00 AM. There is a round table discussion that takes place at 9:00 AM prior to the main meeting/program that starts at 10:00 AM. Participants are invited to attend this round table and bring their research questions for discussion.

You may visit the society web page at:

<http://www.nwsgenealogy.org/>

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

We do our best here to try to be sure that information we convey about programs is accurate. However, sometimes we are unable to convey changes unless we are made aware of those changes.

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**Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT
REGULAR SOCIETY PROGRAM ON MAY 17, 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, May 17, 2017 between 7pm to 8:45pm. Refreshments are offered at 6:30pm. The program scheduled for that evening is "Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places: The Search for Marriage Records". The speaker for the program will be Ginger Frere.

You may visit the society's web page at:

www.dcg.org

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

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

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

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGGNI) NEXT PROGRAM ON MAY 20, 2017 AT THE NIU CENTER IN HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, May 20, 2017 at the NIU Center in Hoffman Estates, IL between 10:30am to 12:30pm. The program scheduled for this day is "Wiki Tree, The Free Global Family Tree". The speaker will be **Marty Acks**.

WikiTree is a free community of genealogists dedicated to growing an accurate single family tree using DNA and traditional genealogical sources. In this program, you will learn the key features of WikiTree, be shown how you can easily get started on the site, and learn numerous tips and techniques to get the most out of your time on WikiTree.

Marty Acks has been researching his family history since 1999 after having caught the bug from his mom and dad. He volunteers at WikiTree where he contributes to the global family tree. Marty leads a Porterfield surname study (maternal grandmother), assists other members, and monitors activity as a WikiTree Ranger.

This meeting is being held at the NIU Center, 5555 Trillium Road, Hoffman Estates, near the intersection of I-90 & Beverly Road. [Map](#)

You may visit the organization web page at:

www.CAGGNI.org

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

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Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON JUNE 13, 2017

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, June 13, 2017.

We will have another “break-out” session for our gathering on June 13, 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 as of 12/16!)

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

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

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

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

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

I look forward to our next "break-out" session on June 13, 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 – THE GOOD CEMETERIAN

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated April 20, 2017.

Andrew Lumish spends his free time in an unlikely place: cemeteries. On his weekly day off, he spends about ten hours using his cleaning skills to restore veterans' tombstones around Tampa, Florida. To honor veterans for serving their country, Lumish taught himself how to properly clean graves. He found out the system the government uses for national cemeteries—including Arlington—and got to work.



Lumish tries to post four new pictures a week on his Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TheGoodCemeterian/>.

He scours genealogy sites to find the deceased's backstory. He'll share details like their hometowns, battles they fought in, wives, and businesses—and those stories can get juicy. "Some of these guys, who some consider heroes, would leave their wife for another woman, and leave six kids," says Lumish. "It's a war hero who won a medal of honor for serving in the Civil War and was thrown in jail for not paying child support. ... It's like *Real Housewives of 1895*."

You can read this story of a good — no, great — samaritan at <http://www.rd.com/true-stories/inspiring/good-cemeterian-cleaning-tombstones/>.

Here is a link to a YouTube video about this person:

https://youtu.be/7a_RqNy-qEs

Comments by Tony Kierna

What a great story! It is also very timely as we are about to enter the "cemetery" season in our own area. We are not as fortunate accessing cemeteries in our own northern areas as Andrew Lumish is in Tampa, Florida. Please take note of the Dick Eastman verbiage above where it mentions "how to properly clean graves". For as well intentioned as we may be, if we try cleaning a gravestone improperly, we can make matters worse and hasten further deterioration with those good intentions.

I highly recommend visiting all of the above links to know the story of this real life hero who wants to honor fallen veterans not only with stories of their lives but also to make their final resting place gravestones come to attention by being restored to as pristine a condition as possible.

Our time of year for cemetery is actually here right now. Spring is here. It is not too hot. Many may still not be visiting cemeteries. There are probably few if any leaves on the ground to obstruct your discoveries. Now is the time to take that trip to the cemetery of an ancestor.

Try to do as much research about that ancestor and the cemetery before you get behind the wheel to drive out there. Check with the Sexton's office of the cemetery on a regular workday during their normal hours to find out all you need to know in advance e.g. hours of operation, location of a gravesite, rules and regulations about addressing any gravesite issues, photographing grave site policy etc. Nothing worse than to go out on a Saturday or Sunday with great intentions of doing research only to discover there is no one staffing the cemetery office on the weekend where you could ask your questions.

Take plenty of material with you to address gravesite cleaning issues in addition to taking out guidelines on the cleaning process so you do not damage anything. Here are a couple of sites I did general Google searches about "How To Clean Gravestones":

<http://www.honorfairfaxcemeteries.org/resources/>

<http://stonerevival.net/2016/08/cleaning-headstones/>

<http://www.capecodtimes.com/news/20160822/gravestone-cleaners-preserve-moments-in-time>

Also, consider taking the following items to a cemetery if you plan on cleaning up the area/gravestone of an ancestor:

- *Grass clippers, battery powered string trimmer*
- *Sod cutting tool (to remove overgrown sod that creeps onto a gravestone)*
- *Small orange construction flags to mark a grave site if you decide to leave it to go back to your car to get something. There is nothing worse than losing track of where you just were and spend more time re-discovering the location of the site again. The orange construction markers really work to help find the location again.)*
- *Gallon jugs of water to use to clean the dirt and grime from a gravestone. You don't want to try and find water at the cemetery and discover it is a long way away if it is there at all.*
- *Soft bristled brushes.*
- *Soft bristled toothbrush (to get into the letters cut into the granite to remove the dirt trapped in the letters.)*
- *Sunscreen*
- *Insect repellent*

- Hat
- Long-sleeved shirt or blouse.
- Knee pads or a kneeling pad used for gardening to use for what will be long times kneeling on the ground working on the stone (unless of course your ancestor had a nice tall above ground gravestone!).
- Some snacks and water for yourself to drink.
- Some aspirin or Tylenol for the sore muscles you will undoubtedly feel for all of the hard work you will experience.

I am sure you can add your own items on the list. The point is to make a list of the above items or your own BEFORE you head out. I guarantee that you will arrive there missing some important item.

Better yet, add the items above or your own to a permanent "cemetery" bag that you will always have ready to go at a moment's notice.

While Andrew Lumish focuses on veterans, use all of the tips he has and offers to include into your own "cemetery" process for your own ancestors. But just like a doctor, "do no harm". If in doubt on something you want to do to a gravestone, DON'T DO IT. Learn the correct ways to treat gravestones.

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Handout #7 – INCOMPLETE BIRTH CERTIFICATE PROBLEMS

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

I had to smile a bit today when reading an [article in the Boston Globe](#) about the "problem" of incomplete birth records. It seems the city of Boston has many birth records from years ago where the baby's name is simply recorded as "baby girl" or "baby boy." The reporter wrote, "A generation ago — when more families had six or more children — babies without official first names were surprisingly common. Overwhelmed new parents would leave the hospital without completing birth certificate paperwork."

You can read more in the article by Andrew Ryan in the *Boston Globe* at: <http://bit.ly/2pedZ7w>. The same article tells how to amend a record and add a first name by providing documentation.

Actually, the "problem" is not unique to Boston nor to any particular area of the United States. An experienced genealogist probably can tell you of numerous similar examples. I have seen it many times, especially in the case of my mother and her siblings.

My mother's birth record at the town clerk's office in Ashland, Maine, records her first name as "baby girl." All of her older brothers and sisters were recorded as "baby girl" or "baby boy." However, the younger siblings (of the 16 children) are recorded with their correct first names. The same is true for many, many other families in the same town, recorded in the same records.

When my mother had to get a Social Security card in later years, it was a minor problem. Since there was no birth record showing her true first name, she had to get affidavits from several people who remembered the event. That wasn't hard for her since her mother (my grandmother) was still alive at the time and she gladly submitted an affidavit saying that she remembered the event well! Apparently, all of my mother's older brothers and sisters had to do the same when they applied for Social Security cards.

I have heard a number of different stories about why this practice was common, and some of those stories contradict the other stories. As a result, I don't know what the truth is except that, after reading the town clerk's records and the records of other town clerks in the area, I do know it was a common practice in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Northern Maine was not the only area to create birth records with no first names. Boston officials estimated that, in the 1950s, roughly 1 of every 25 birth certificates lacked a first name.

I will disagree with one statement in Andrew Ryan's article in the *Boston Globe*: "Overwhelmed new parents would leave the hospital without completing birth certificate paperwork." In the case of my mother, her siblings, and my grandmother, there was no hospital involved. The nearest hospital was more than 20 miles away, a difficult trip at any time of the year and impossible during the winters in northern

Maine, where 3 or 4 feet of snow was common and the (dirt) roads were never plowed in the winter.

My grandmother gave birth to all 16 of her children at home. I suspect some of your ancestors did the same.

My thanks to newsletter reader W. David Samuelsen for telling me about [the article in the Boston Globe](#).

Comments by Tony Kierna

It is amazing how lax the process was in completing civil birth record information back in time. If you tried to do that today and they probably would not let mother and child out of the hospital. Even in our own time, we have seen that a Social Security number is required today from the parents for their child. I did not get a Social Security number until I was about 12. I think that may have had to do with providing it upon entering High School.

As the story indicates, such lax capturing of birth certificate data can lead to problems further down the road. Problems for the individual develop once they are required by some other employers or agencies to bring forth a birth certificate. I guess you could just tell them your name is "baby boy" and leave it at that. That sounds like a cool name! But I digress into too much joviality!

One of the things to look for if you may find yourself in this predicament of discovering a "bogus" birth certificate of an ancestor such as mentioned above, is to look for what are known as "Delayed Birth Certificates" files for the particular county where you find birth certificates with such omissions. These delayed birth certificates are generally those that are filed when an individual realizes their original birth certificate was not filed properly or was filed incompletely. Now the individual has to go through a process of obtaining sworn affidavit information from those around him that can attest to the birth of the individual occurring on a given day back in time. Yes, it does help if your own parent can be the one signing the affidavit. It could happen that person is no longer available.

If an ancestor were born into a practicing religious faith, it is possible that one can discover a church record for a Baptism of sorts. Baptism records in the Catholic Church, which is often a resource I tap into, can go back significantly in time before Civil Records were required. Nonetheless, even in a more modern connection consider looking into church records for baptisms. These baptisms more often than not include the baptism date of the child as well as the actual birth date of the child. Not guaranteed, but most of my Catholic research has uncovered both dates in these baptism records. Other faiths may have similar rites in comparison to baptism. However, they may occur significantly later in life for the individual in comparison to their actual birth date.

I will say that in all of my own personal research I have never discovered a birth record without the name of the individual mentioned. Maybe I am just lucky. Maybe it is an offset for the many death records I have discovered that had plenty of missing information e.g. missing maiden name for a female, birth location of an individual etc. It all balances out in the big picture!

Regarding the comment by Dick Eastman of being born in a real rural area within the house itself and not a hospital, that is certainly also a possibility for a delayed birth record. It could be delayed in filing. However, individuals knew that the civil registration process usually mandated the civil filing of a birth event within a certain period after the event e.g. 6 months, 1 year etc.

Thank your lucky stars if you have not run into any of these kind of birth records. Also, thank your lucky stars if you know of anyone that did have an incomplete birth record and then had to go through a whole affidavit process to get that corrected with a delayed birth record in the county it occurred.

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Handout #8 – SEARCH HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS WITH ELEPHIND.COM

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated March 22, 2017.

Elephind can be a great **FREE** resource for anyone who wishes to search old newspapers. The purpose of elephind.com is to make it possible to search all of the world's digital newspapers from one place and at one time. Elephind.com allows you to simultaneously search across thousands of articles using key words and phrases.



Elephind presently contains 174,143,178 items from 3,306 newspaper titles. You can find a list of libraries that have contribute their archives on the site by clicking on "List of Titles." It is a very long list! Clicking on any library's name displays the newspapers in that collection.

Elephind.com is much like Google, Bing, or other search engines but focused only on historical, digitized newspapers. By clicking on the Elephind.com search result that interests you, you'll go directly to the newspaper collection which hosts that story.

Of course, newspapers can be a great resource of genealogy information. Birth announcements, marriage announcements, court news, and more can be searched within seconds. If your ancestor was a merchant, you probably can also find his or her advertisements placed in the newspaper.

As I often did, I performed my first search on elephind.com looking for one of my ancestors. I simply entered his name, Washington Eastman, and was rewarded thousands of "hits" containing one or the other of those two words. Some of them were about photography and others were about Washington, D.C., or Washington State. I didn't read every article found by that simplistic search but the few I looked at did not have contain anything about the man I was seeking.

I will say however, one article on the list from the San Francisco Call of 6 September 1891 caught my eye:

Darling Eastman, the long-sought-for Vermont moonshiner, is under arrest in this city. Eastman's capture and escape at Corinth, Vt., last April, was the most sensational that has occurred in the State for twenty years. Orange County has been notorious for its stills. The most daring and successful operator in that section was J. Warren Eastman, who lived in an isolated quarter of Corinth. In April last a large posse of officers made a descent on the Eastman homestead. In an old blacksmith shop they discovered a still of the largest and most approved pattern in full

operation. The father, Warren Eastman, his son Darling and his son-in-law were captured in their beds and heavily manacled.

Yes, that sounds like one of my relatives! Admittedly, I have never found this family in my family tree before but they certainly sound like they might belong.

I then backed up and clicked on ADVANCED SEARCH. I got far better results by using that. Advanced Search allows the user to specify any combination of the following:

- Contributing library
- Years of publication to be searched
- Search of all text or limited to searches only of titles
- Number of results to be displayed per page

Elephind does not search all the newspapers ever published in the U.S. No online newspaper offers anywhere near that amount of information. However, it does contain 3,306 different newspapers in its database, including newspapers from the United States, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore.

All the text on Elephind was created by OCR (Optical Character Recognition) and therefore has numerous errors whenever it encountered fuzzy text, page wrinkles, and similar problems. All OCR-created newspaper sites suffer from the same problem, although some sites seem to have worse results than do others.

The oldest newspaper in the online collection is from 29 September 1787 while the newest is from 21 November 2016.

Elephind is not perfect but it can help a lot if your ancestor is listed in one of the newspapers in the Elephind database. Best of all is the price: FREE. There is an optional FREE registration which adds the use advanced features, including Elephind bookmarks and comments. If you do register, occasionally (less than 6 times per year) you will receive notifications or newsletters via email with information about changes and additions to Elephind.com.

You can try Elephind at <http://www.elephind.com>. Make sure you read the "Search Tips" at <http://www.elephind.com/?a=p&p=help&e=---en-10-1-txt-txINtxCO--->. Yes, that is a strange-looking URL but it really is a link to the "Search Tips."

Comments by Tony Kierna

In addition to the library digital newspapers we have e.g. Chicago Tribune, New York Times, Newspaper Archive.com, it is always nice to be able to discover and try new digital newspaper resources such as Elephind.com. It is free, and I did not need to establish an account or the like to try.

Try any of these when given the opportunity. This particular resource does include newspapers that are in the Illinois Digital Newspaper Collections. If researching ancestors connected to Illinois, give Elephind.com a try. In the Advanced search you can access all of the newspapers or you can scroll through the list of digital newspaper collections in Elephind and select the one that may be more appropriate

for your ancestral search. There are papers that are from Australia, Mexico, New Zealand and Singapore, but the vast majority of digital data is from newspapers in the United States.

I did a search for my surname KIERNA. I received 42 results. I suggest you focus on the left side of the results list rather than just browsing through the list of results itself. The left side provides you with a summary of where your results are grouped. Results you will see fall into the following categories. I limited my search in the advance search to "United States":

- States where results found
- Decade noted for the results
- Newspaper source where found (database group name)
- Newspaper name
- Language of the publication

If you look at the upper right hand corner of the screen with the results, you will see the ability to sort the data by relevance (what it thinks is highly likely as a match), or sort by date (oldest to youngest or youngest to oldest). You have many ways of narrowing down your results to what you think are the most appropriate to review.

You will also see a small colored line on the actual digital page image of the newspaper. This is where your search term is appearing in the actual newspaper. This is a must-feature to spare you trying to figure out where the occurrence was on the page. I was able to zoom in on the page using my scroll wheel to increase the size or decrease the size. I did not see a "zoom in" or "zoom out" icon.

One thing I noticed in this resource that I have seen in many other digital newspaper resources is that the OCR process of capturing the words still leaves me with plenty of erroneous hits. My name KIERNA frequently gives me many occurrences of what is actually the last name KIERNAN. The index picks it up as KIERNA but the actual image of the newspaper itself clearly shows the last name as KIERNAN in print. It is just part of the fun of researching to encounter these OCR glitches of word transition from print to digital.

For my own results, none looked to be new discoveries. Perhaps your search may uncover newspaper articles you had not previously discovered.

Give Elephind.com a try if you have never previously used it. Bookmark it and always consider using it when doing digital newspaper research.

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Handout #9 – “U.S. PASSPORT APPLICATIONS: REVERSE YOUR SENSE OF DIRECTION”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the April/May 2017, Volume 12, Number 1 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “U.S. Passport Applications: Reverse Your Sense of Direction”. The author of the article is Joe Grandinetti.

The author makes a key point on how to think about your research. We often focus on records and data on our ancestor related to them leaving their country of origin and coming to their destination. Think of an ancestor leaving Poland by boarding a ship in Hamburg, Germany. We might be looking for any or all records related to that event. The author suggests thinking in reverse. Look for the records and data of an ancestor leaving from the new location and going back to their original area of life. Think of things such as a passport that allows travel from the United States to a foreign country.

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has just such data collected from 1795 to 1925. After 1925 such data on passports is kept by the U.S. Department of State.

You can find this online data at:

FamilySearch.org (for free) @
<http://familysearch.org/search/collection/2185145>

Ancestry.com (subscription) @
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1174>

Findmypast.com (subscription) @
<http://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/united-states-passport-applications>

I want to mention early on that this database from Ancestry.com was a “goldmine” for me for the one record contained in it that was for my great-uncle KIERNA. He and his son applied for a passport in 1910 with the goal of going back to Poland and being gone from the United States for up to one year. It does not state any reason for the travel. But it does give me clues that it is likely he was going back to Poland to re-connect with possibly his brother, who from my own research is the only KIERNA of my lineage that did not emigrate to the United States. His 4 brothers, 1 sister and his parents all left Poland to come to the United States. Perhaps my great-uncle was going back to Poland to visit a still living brother? Perhaps his brother had passed away and he was going back to Poland to settle an estate??

I highly recommend using this database for the purpose of reverse engineering to follow ancestors living in the United States who may have gone back to their country of origin for whatever reason. The data on the passport application information can

you give you great clues on the ancestor applying for the passport as well as dates and other family members you might not know about.

Here is the kind of information you can possibly discover from these passport applications:

- Name of applicant and their birth date/age, birthplace and residence.
- Date of application or issuance of passport.
- Father's and or spouse's name.
- Father's and/or spouse's birth date or age, birthplace, residence, and citizenship information.
- Date and port of departure for immigration to the US and the name of the vessel.
- Years of residence in the US and length of time intended to be abroad.
- Destination and reason for travel.
- Naturalization date and place.
- Occupation and physical characteristics.
- Witness' statement and signature.
- Applicant's signature.
- Applicant's photograph (required as of December 21, 1914).

As an example for my great-uncle, I was able to discover the following (some of which my previous research uncovered):

- My great-uncle's name
- The name of his son, date and place of birth of the son.
- Where my great-uncle was born and his birth date.
- When he emigrated from Poland, date.
- How long he has been in the US.
- Where he currently resides, city, state, address.
- When he was naturalized.
- What his occupation is.
- His signature along with the name of a witness.
- A physical description of my great-uncle
 - Age (45)
 - Stature (5ft. 5 inches)
 - Forehead (medium)
 - Eyes (gray)
 - Nose (large)
 - Mouth (small)

- o Chin (wide)
- o Hair (black)
- o Complexion (rather dark)
- o Face (dark brown mustache)

This is the only record in which I have found a description of such detail for one of my ancestors, plus also being able to see his actual signature.

As you can see, each of the above pieces of information can be a further clue for you to dig deeper on that particular ancestor and uncover even more. You may now discover naturalization dates and locations to research. You may be able to work with a stated occupation you may never have known. You may discover a child traveling with an ancestor that you did not even existed. You will possibly discover a date of when the ancestor originally arrived into the U.S.

This is a wonderful file. I was lucky in that this is the only KIERNA in this file. It gave me so much information that was readable and in-depth, especially the physical description of this great-uncle.

While you normally look for your ancestor records related to their entrance into the U.S., don't overlook this Passport file to see if they went back to their mother country years after their original arrival.

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Handout #10 – “FORBIDDEN FRUIT”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the April/May 2017, Volume 12, Number 1 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled “Forbidden Fruit”. The author of the article is Sue Lisk. The author gives some tips on capturing material from existing family trees in a manner related to being an arborist! Good tips so you do not injure your own family tree!

The author suggests these six things to consider when capturing information from existing family trees:

- **Check the General Health of the Tree**
 - Check the size of the tree, if too big it is probably not well researched. If too small, it might be the first steps of a newbie.
 - Check the facts you see for being logical. Were children born before their parents?
 - Check for misspellings. This could be a sign of sloppy research that could infect your own tree if you incorporate it.
- **Study the Root System**
 - You will have to look at entries in the tree and see which ones may refer only to “living” with no other information. From this you might be able to determine if the submitter of the tree is a direct descendant in the line shown by the tree. Lineal descendants may have more correct information when the submitter is unrelated directly to tree components.
 - Look for those that died most recently and evaluate the sources and citations provided (there should be sources and citations!). Check some of these sources to see they are accurate.
 - Question information when no sources are given.
 - Check the “facts” that are entered in for this donor tree to see if they match to some of your own facts. If they do, you might be dealing with a reputable researcher.
- **Be on the Lookout for Grafts**
 - Some branches may simply be more researched than others and thus better.
 - Watch for “placeholder” branches that have been copied and not fully developed.
 - Do not assume that any part of an online tree is correct simply because they are posted.

- o Online branch additions may be easily found because they lack sources and citations.

- **Inspect Odd Growths**

- o Look for odd spellings of town names that could indicate basic copying of information.
- o **Reject these odd growths and work on your own tree rather than adding potentially incorrect information.**

- **Examine the Crown**

- o Look at the crowns of trees because there are fewer of them allowing you to really give them a good review. As you go further and further back you have many more names that add to the challenge to verify.
- o **Be particular suspicious if the most ancient ancestor of an online family tree is identified as having been part of a Royal Family. Many researchers simply like to have these unsubstantiated stories as part of their tree.**

- **Watch Out for Falling Branches**

- o You may discover well-documented family trees that look solid but you must verify the sources.
- o Keep an open mind to something in a tree that amounts to a new discovery for you. The researcher may be correct on this information and you may simply be wrong or have not yet reached that discovery.
- o **Spend as much time reviewing a new tree from someone else as you would your own.**
- o If you do not review the work of others you could create an incorrect branch that while looks good may simply be completely erroneous. This branch will ultimately come falling to the ground as you review the data.
- o **Be wary of the online "fruit" of the family trees of other researchers. The pickings may seem too good to resist but the rotten fruit will ultimately do in your own tree if you are not cautious and thorough in bringing in these "easy pickings".**

The author did a great job of making us aware of the potential disasters that lie ahead if you just blindly pick the easy low-lying fruit off of these online family trees. Use them as a guide to start your own verification and comparison to your own tree. **Remember, it is not about the building up of numbers in your family trees with unsubstantiated names and data. The winner is the researcher that uses critical thinking and research methodology to prove out your ancestors on your own family tree.**

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