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September 12, 2017 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our September 12, 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 looking for the tab called “Services”, pull down for “genealogy”. This will take you to my genealogy page at the library. Scroll down a little and look for the bi-colored blue and black box. In the black part of the box is a hot link titled “Tony’s Genealogy Blog”. Click on the link for the blog title and you will get to my 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 OCTOBER 7, 2017

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society will take place on Saturday morning October 7, 2017. The program for the morning is titled "*Ireland's Griffith's Valuation: Using the Tables and Maps*". The speaker for the morning will be **Paul Milner**.

This presentation is designed to show how to use, understand and interpret the published reports of Griffith's Primary Valuation of Ireland. How then to go beyond the tables to physically locate your ancestors on the ground using the online mapping tools.

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 SEPTEMBER 20, 2017**

Please note that meetings that will take place for the society will occur between September 2017 through May 2018. The September 2017 program will occur at the DuPage County Historical Museum located at 102 E. Wesley Street in Wheaton, IL. The October 2017 through May 2018 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, September 20, 2017 between 7pm to 8:45pm. Refreshments are offered at 6:30pm. The program scheduled for that evening is **“European Immigration to America from 1800 to 1940”**. The speaker for the program will be **Steve Szabados**.

Description of the When did your ancestors immigrate, where did they leave, why did they leave, how did they get here? We may never know the exact answers to these questions, but hopefully, this program will give you insights to possible ancestors and clear up some of the confusions.

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 SEPTEMBER 16, 2017 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, September 16, 2017 at the Schaumburg Township District Library, Schaumburg, IL between 10:30am to 12:30pm. The program scheduled for this day is **"Hunting for Henry: A Case Study Using Collaterals"**. The speaker will be **Teresa Steinkamp McMillin**.

Henry Steren was a German immigrant who lived in Quincy, Illinois. The US records that were created about him indicate only that he was from the Province of Hanover on Germany. This lecture will deal with how his town of origin and parents were identified in spite of the lack of records naming him. Carefully researching each of his associates and correlating all available evidence reveals the origins of Henry. Use of the Genealogical Proof Standard is demonstrated.

Teresa Steinkamp McMillin is a Certified Genealogist who specializes in German-American and Midwest research, as well as reading German script. She presents quality genealogy lectures for local and national organizations. She has attended the Institute of Genealogy and Historical research, Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, National Genealogical Society's Home Study Course and has a B.S. in Computer Science from University of Illinois - Urbana.

She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the National Genealogical Society, as well as many local genealogical organizations. She is the co-president for the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society.

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 OCTOBER 10, 2017**

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

The speaker for this program will be Dr. Daniel Hubbard. Dr. Hubbard will present a program titled *"Developing a Sixth Census: Finding More in the "Census" Than Meets the Eye"*.

This presentation is designed to help you really squeeze as much as you can from census data of many shapes and sizes.

Daniel Hubbard is a full-time professional researcher who has been researching almost as long as he can remember. Inspired by family stories and a pair of genealogist aunts he began to seriously conduct family history research at about eleven years of age. He spent eight years at CERN outside Geneva Switzerland learning to handle very large research projects while performing research in particle physics (Ph.D. University of Michigan Post-doc Harvard). After living in Sweden for eleven years during which he was a software designer strategic product manager and editor of technical documentation he returned to the U.S. to fulfill his passion for family history. Daniel now combines his skills in technology genealogy complex research the organizing of large amounts of information writing editing and book design to assist clients with their family history projects. He works with a variety of clients on projects including untangling problems in Swedish immigration and ancestry analysis of 19th century letters and photographs and extensive research into colonial families.

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.

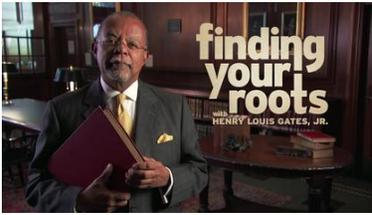
You can also visit the Genealogy Blog of the library that is authored by Tony Kierna. Visit the blog at <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com> for all things related to genealogy and the genealogy programs at the Schaumburg Township District Library and other libraries.

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Handout #6 – NEW SEASON OF PBS’ “FINDING YOUR ROOTS” STARTS ON OCTOBER 3, 2017

The following was found at Dick Eastman’s Blog at www.eogn.com dated August 4, 2017.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [August 4, 2017](#) · [Video & Television](#) · [6 Comments](#)



Genealogists in the United States will want to mark their calendars for October 3, 2017. That will be the date of the first episode of the new season of *Finding Your Roots With Henry Gates, Jr.*

The 10-part series traces the ancestry of influential people from a variety of backgrounds and careers. The program focuses on the melting pot of cultures that has shaped the history of the United States, especially focusing on the various ethnic groups that live within our country. Most episodes explore the ancestry of three guests.

Celebrities who will learn about their ancestors in this season’s episodes include: Ana Navarro, US Senator Bernie Sanders, Larry David, Garrison Keillor, Mary Steenburgen, Scarlett Johansson, Ted Danson, Aziz Ansari, Bryant Gumbel, William H. Macy, and others

One episode will even reveal that actor and comedian Larry David and Senator Bernie Sanders are related. Sanders and David share “identical DNA” of three chromosomes and “that’s a lot of matches,” according to Gates. That is rather unique because Larry David has impersonated Sanders on “Saturday Night Live.”

Major corporate support for *Finding Your Roots with Henry Gates, Jr.* Season Three is provided by Ancestry.com, Johnson & Johnson, POM and Ford. Support is also provided by the Ford Foundation, Candace King Weir, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and PBS.

You can watch a video “trailer” of the new season of *Finding Your Roots* at <http://www.pbs.org/video/finding-your-roots-season-four-official-trailer-hdf5ii/>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

They’re back! This is another one of the very popular genealogy TV shows, this one hosted by PBS and Henry Gates, Jr. First program for the new season kicks off on October 3, 2017. I wish I could tell you the exact time but the website for the show is only stating the date so far. So keep watching as we get closer to the date for an exact time.

If you have never watched an episode of this show it is well worth seeing how this show is created. They do interviews with "famous" popular "stars". You can see the lineup for this year's shows follows the same pattern as evidenced by who will be on this year from the above list.

You can visit the website for the show at:

<http://www.pbs.org/show/finding-your-roots/>

You can view past episodes of the show for the previous 3 seasons. There are generally 10 episodes per season. However, you need to sign yourself in as a registered "WTTW Passport User". You can register to become one if not already registered and then start watching full episodes from the previous 3 seasons. However, becoming a "WTTW Passport User" requires you to make a sustaining contribution of a minimum of \$5 per month (\$60 per year). This registration is connected with a financial donation. Becoming a "WTTW Passport User" will allow you to access more material than just the videos associated with "Finding Your roots with Henry Gates, Jr."

There was some controversy with the show in the previous season when it was discovered that a slave owning piece of information related to Ben Affleck's show was removed. Editing of the episode was a violation of the PBS policy. Season 3 was postponed as staff shakeups occurred. Here is a link to some information about the controversy:

<http://www.rollingstone.com/tv/news/pbs-suspends-finding-your-roots-after-ben-affleck-slave-controversy-20150625>

You can find many more reports on this controversy online.

All of that looks to be in the past with this popular PBS genealogy show. Season 4 is on the calendar for October 3, 2017, hopefully with no new controversies developing between now and then.

Mark your calendars for the return of this genealogy show. We will probably see more announcements regarding other popular genealogy TV shows and new seasonal information for "Who Do You Think You Are?" and "Genealogy Roadshow".

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Handout #7 – MOST COMMON LAST NAMES IN THE UNITED STATES

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated August 10, 2017.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [August 10, 2017](#) · [Genealogy Basics](#) · [3 Comments](#)

For centuries, immigrants have come to the U.S. to escape war, oppression, and poverty, or to pursue employment opportunities and success. Most Americans can trace their roots to immigrant ancestors. 24/7 Wall St. reviewed census data to find the 50 most common last names in the U.S.

Today, the vast majority of the most common surnames in the U.S. can be traced back to England and other European origins. Among the top 50 most common surnames, 12 have Spanish, Cuban, or Mexican heritage. To determine the most common surnames in the United States, 24/7 Wall St. analyzed past and present census counts to understand population diversity in America. The origin of each family name was obtained from open data on Ancestry.com.

You can read more and also find the most common last names in the US in an article by Joseph Gedeon in the 24/7 Wall St. web site at: <http://bit.ly/2hNJg11>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

This is always a fun exercise to do. I can almost tell you with absolute certainty that you will NOT find the name of KIERNA on the list! Darn! Not really, I prefer a rather uncommon name that helps me with my own genealogy searches. In fact, I feel bad for anyone having the names on the list that is doing genealogy. Common names equates to difficult searching and determination that you have the right ancestor in your sight. So for me the more consonants and fewer vowels make the surname more unique and easier to work with when you make discoveries. I will take a BLASZCIKIEWICZ any day!!

Check out the link above to gain access to the full list of information. The site is large and some of the loading took me a while to get onscreen. You can expect to see some statistical information per name such as:

ROBERTS (50)

Occurrences per 100,000 people: 127.7

Total occurrences: 376,774

Growth since 2000: 2.8%

Heritage: England

Most of the Anglo surnames have grown at a smaller amount than the 12 or so Hispanic names that can be found in this list.

RIVERA (46)

Occurrences per 100,000 people: 132.6
Total occurrences: 391,114
Growth since 2000: 23.4%
Heritage: Spain

Pretty dramatic growth increase since 2000 compared to ROBERTS.

The names at the site are presented in order from smallest to largest although you can select the pages containing the top names as being the most common if you want to see. I can guess that many of you already know the most common surname in America.

Anyhow, here is a spoiler alert to the top 10 most common surnames in the United States if you want to get to the answer immediately. Look away if you want to go from 50 to 1 on your own time. If you want to know now, then just keep reading:

- #10 Martinez
- #9 Rodriguez
- #8 Davis
- #7 Miller
- #6 Garcia
- #5 Jones
- #4 Brown
- #3 Williams
- #2 Johnson
- #1 Smith

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Handout #8 – MYHERITAGE ACQUIRES THE LEGACY FAMILY TREE SOFTWARE AND WEBINAR PLATFORM

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated August 3, 2017.

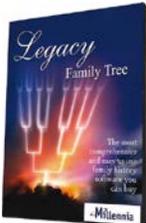
[Dick Eastman](#) · [August 3, 2017](#) · [Business News, Software](#) · [6 Comments](#)

Major news in the genealogy software marketplace! MyHeritage has acquired Millennia Corporation, makers of the popular [Legacy Family Tree](#) genealogy desktop software and well-attended genealogy webinar platform, [Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#).

The following is a quote from the [MyHeritage Blog](#):



We're delighted to announce today that we've acquired Millennia Corporation, makers of the popular [Legacy Family Tree](#) genealogy desktop software and well-attended genealogy webinar platform, [Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#). This is our 9th acquisition to date. We consider Legacy's products to be highly complementary to our wide range of features and services. The acquisition will introduce MyHeritage users to Legacy's valuable genealogical webinars, and will also provide Legacy's hundreds of thousands of users with improved resources and access to new services.



Legacy's webinars, which have been around since 2010, have become the most popular source of education in the genealogy industry. Viewers enjoy talks accompanied by presentations and tutorials on a wide variety of genealogy content from the comfort of their own homes while learning from speakers who are leaders in their field, such as Judy G. Russell, Blaine Bettinger, Lisa Louise Cooke, and Thomas MacEntee. Topics include genealogical research methodology, DNA, historical records, and more. The webinars will continue to feature diverse and high-quality educational content. The webinar platform will also enjoy infrastructure upgrades to support larger audiences.

Legacy Family Tree's desktop software has been in existence for twenty years and is consistently ranked (along with MyHeritage's [Family Tree Builder](#)) among the top genealogy software products in the industry. Legacy Family Tree software will continue operating as before, enjoying improvements backed by MyHeritage's innovative technological resources. We plan to release a new version of Legacy Family Tree software, Legacy Family Tree 10, together. Version 10 will include the optional capability to sync family trees to the MyHeritage website and allow users to

make updates to their family trees on the Legacy software using the MyHeritage mobile app.

We are also continuing to develop our Family Tree Builder software separately, and it will not be merged with Legacy's software. At MyHeritage, we value giving our users the ability to choose their preferred genealogy tools, and allow them to work offline with robust functionality. While some other companies no longer develop genealogy software, we believe that people should be able to discover and preserve their family history on whatever platform they are comfortable with.

We welcome Legacy's users to MyHeritage to enhance their genealogical research with our advanced products and services. Legacy Family Tree users will now be able to take advantage of MyHeritage's world-class website features for online family trees, research their family history through historical records, and utilize MyHeritage DNA tests for genealogy and ethnicity.

To celebrate the acquisition, we offer all users of MyHeritage a limited time discount of 50% on annual [Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#) memberships through August 13th. We encourage our users to check out the webinar series on FamilyTreeWebinars.com and take advantage of this opportunity to discover an exciting and fun world of genealogical wisdom delivered by the top experts.

We extend a warm welcome to Dave, Ken, Geoff, Luc and the rest of the Legacy team who are joining the growing MyHeritage team, and we look forward to the road ahead, as we work together to make family history easier and more accessible for everyone.

NOTE: MyHeritage is also the sponsor of this newsletter (Dick Eastman's newsletter, not my library genealogy newsletter!!).

Comments by Tony Kierna

Mergers and acquisitions are not just limited to the Fortune 500. In fact, in the world of genealogy there is much activity in this regards that is always constantly in motion. This is just another example of the most recent.

Legacy Family Tree has been around for quite a while. Its lineage program is very good. I have used it on my office computer. However, I have always been a big fan of Legacy Family Tree for its large size numbers of webinars it has on its site. Anyone can sign up to participate in a "live" webinar as it occurs in its original airing. However, you need to subscribe to the service to access all of the archived webinars in its collection. The fee is \$49.95 per year or if you only want to subscribe on a monthly basis for a few months the fee is \$9.95 per month.

Unfortunately, by the time you read this you will not be able to take advantage of the 50% subscription discount being offered by MyHeritage until August 13th. Sorry for that!

As of a recent viewing of the site, there are currently 569 total webinars archived! That is an amazing number. Check them out here:

https://familytreewebinars.com/archived_webinars.php

When you take a look at them you will also note that the videos are grouped into areas of genealogical interest to help you find a topic of interest to you. You will see topics such as:

- *Beginners*
- *DNA*
- *FamilySearch*
- *Google*
- *Legacy Family Tree*
- *Methodology and Skills*
- *Organization*
- *Places and Ethnic*
- *Records*

There are many more categories to discover.

Plus, you can also search for webinars by name of the presenter if a certain presenter is of interest to you.

From the above post, "The webinars will continue to feature diverse and high-quality educational content. The webinar platform will also enjoy infrastructure upgrades to support larger audiences". So you can also expect to see some improvements on what is already a fine system of webinars. Sometimes we fear that acquisitions can change our world if we are relying on resources from a company that has just been bought out. Does not look like the webinars are going to disappear but the infrastructure surrounding them will actually improve!

The webinars are the high point of the great resources offered by Legacy Family Tree and now through MyHeritage. We will just have to see how this acquisition will work out and what changes we will see within MyHeritage as it utilizes the resources of Legacy Family Tree.

For now we will just have to see how the websites of each company will change to reflect the buyout. Nothing stays totally the same in these situations.

I wonder what other big time corporate genealogical announcement is lurking in the weeds. When one company does something it is not that uncommon for a competing company to do something very similar in order to keep its own marketing advantage.

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Handout #9 – “THROUGH THE NIGHT GATES: PORTALS TO THE PAST”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the August/September 2017, Volume 12, Number 3 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “Through the Night Gates: Portals to the Past”. The author of the article is Sue Lisk.

The title refers to gates that were smaller in size for walled cities of the past. Often you had large main gates for entrance. These were closed at night. Smaller gates were kept open to let individuals in but not large groups at one time. The idea was bandits and marauders would not enter the walled community quickly to overrun the town. These small gates were known as “night gates”.

The author equates much genealogical material can also be obtained outside of the scope of the normal “main gate” processes such as Ancestry.com, FamilySearch etc. but the researcher has to know where to look for these “night gates” giving limited access but giving access nonetheless.

Here is how the author has divided the 6 ways to open these gates:

- **The Gate of Seers (Timing Your Access To Genealogical Resources)**

- Economically you generally limit yourself to access to a few key resources. You have to be vigilant and watchful to take advantage of access to resources that are offered free for limited periods of time.
 - Legacy.com hosts webinars that are live streamed. Once recorded, these videos are available free to anyone to watch for 7 days after the original streaming. After that the video retreats to the Legacy archive where only subscribers to Legacy.com webinars can then view them.
 - Check out the scheduled upcoming “live” webinars and the topics to see which are of interest to you. Note the original view date and then come back to view the video within the 7 days after the original viewing before it retreats to the archive.

- **The Gates of Ancestors (Subscription based services like Ancestry.com frequently have windows for signing up for a free trial.)**

- If you currently do not subscribe to the site of a major genealogical data provider like Ancestry.com, go to their site and look for the “free”, generally no more than 2 weeks, trial subscription.

- Do the same for FindMyPast (Strong collections for the US, the UK, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand.).
- American Ancestors often has “free” access to some databases that might be associated with a special day or person (they open up all of their Irish databases often in March for a limited period related to St. Patrick’s Day.).

- **The Gates of Captive Voices (Has your research given you geographic locations to search then consider newspaper research)**

- You can greatly understand your own ancestors’ life’s experiences through others being reported upon in these newspapers of the time of your ancestors.
- Consider Newspapers.com that offers “free” trial access for a 1 week period. It focuses on American newspapers but also has some material from Canadian, Australian and Irish newspapers. Check www.newspapers.com/papers.
- Consider NewspaperArchives.com that offers “free” trial access for a 1 week period. It focuses also on American newspapers. You can drill down by state, town to see what covers the area of your ancestors. You can search by newspaper name, year and month. Check it out at www.newspaperarchive.com/us.
- Determine your questions for ancestors in a certain geographic and determine which newspaper service covers the area of your ancestors. Choose the newspaper material that can give you the best chance to make discoveries.

- **The Gate of Elders (Connect with living individuals to capture the stories.)**

- The elderly that are still alive have the stories. They may have known the individuals of interest to you.
- Don’t ignore individuals that are not relatives of yours. They may know even more about your own ancestor of interest to you. These may be friends, neighbors, co-workers of your ancestor.
- These non-relatives may in fact be more objective and truthful of the lives of your ancestors.

- **The Gate of Recollections (The importance of research notes.)**

- Have you collected research data and did not make detailed note about your own analysis of the material? We all have.
- Such detailed notes are extremely helpful for your return visits to the analysis of that particular ancestor when you return to continue your research and analysis at a future date on the material you have.
- Make sure you make notes about the websites you visit. Document the address you were visiting (can’t emphasize this enough!). What did you find? What didn’t you find?

- **The Gate of Revelations (New insights at problem-solving may just appear at a later time.)**

- Set aside a problem area of your research. Over time your brain may just reshuffle your analysis of what you have and provide you with a path to a problem resolution.
- New ways of solving old problems may just pop into your head at totally unexpected times. Jot down these thoughts about solving the problem in a different way.
- Just seeing a new topic that you are reading may create that unexpected thought to solve your research problems.

The article provides some interesting analysis of methods to use to try to open up your research windows for further success.

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Handout #10 – “A NEW LOOK AT OLD YEARBOOKS”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the August/September 2017, Volume 12, Number 3 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled “A New Look at Old Yearbooks”. The author of the article is David A. Norris.

My exposure, and probably your exposure to yearbooks, connects us to our High School Yearbooks. Those annual, glitzy, books were well put together. At least the ones I have from my High School! We waited with “baited breath” until the end of the school year until these masterpieces became available and we could look at our picture (or not) to see how good (or bad) we looked! Yearbooks can really be a great source to shed lots of personal information on an ancestor that might very well be contained in one of these books. What were there aspirations? What extracurricular activities did they participate in? Are there pictures of them? Are there “famous” students I these yearbooks?

It looks like some of the history of yearbooks goes back to Harvard University and the creation of “class books” back in 1808. Yale University is regarded as the first school to have what are the equivalent of what we know as yearbooks today. The college newspaper of Yale called *Yale Banner* evolved into yearbooks as we know them today back in 1841. Over time the contents expanded a great deal to include more than just listings of students at the school. Clubs and societies were added on over time and named those participating in these.

The author notes that in 1870, college enrollment consisted of only about 52,000 students out of a population of 40 million. Over time enrollment as a percent of population grew to 5% by 1920 and to 30% by 1955.

The inclusion of photographs in yearbooks started around 1880. Picture creation before that time was timely and expensive and thus most yearbooks prior to 1880 lacked pictures. Regardless, at least you have the chance to find the names of your ancestors in these yearbooks that your research could connect to that particular school. Maybe you will be lucky and be able to discover such a yearbook from back then. Don’t forget that if looking for a female ancestor, she will be found under her “maiden” name rather than a married name you may know her under. These early photos, when they do exist, generally included groups of students rather than individual photos.

World War I research of ancestors may have a good connection to yearbooks. The Student Army Training Corps (S.A.T.C.) started in the fall of 1918 to provide officers for the rapidly expanding military. Over 140,000 students among 525 colleges joined the program. The existence of the S.A.T.C. was from 1918-1919 so it is a limited window but it could be a valuable one for your research. However, often times the returning students after World War I who were now veterans often formed American Expeditionary Force clubs that were reflected in the yearbooks. Similar

kind of mention and inclusion in yearbooks may also apply for post-World War II vets.

The author provides some nice links to resources that can be helpful to you for High School, College and Military Yearbooks.

The author suggests the following resources for High School and College yearbooks:

- Google Books @ <http://books.google.com>
- Internet Archive @ www.archive.org
- Hathi Trust Digital Library @ www.hathitrust.org
- Ancestry.com in their database titled *U.S., School Yearbooks, 1880-2012*
- College and High School Yearbooks of North Carolina back to the 1890s can be found at <http://digitalnc.org/collections/nc-yearbooks>.
- Nimitz Library at the U.S. Naval Academy has numerous issues of the Academy's yearbook, *The Lucky Bag*, from 1894-1970 online at <http://cdm16099.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16099coll7>.
- U.S. Military Academy yearbook called *The Howitzer*, may be found at the Hathi Trust website at www.hathitrust.org/digital_library.
- U.S. Air Force Academy yearbooks for 1956 to 2014 can be found at www.usafa.org/Heritage/Yearbooks.

Do you have yearbooks at home? Spend some time taking a look at them. Maybe you have not looked at one in a good number of years. See what you can find about your classmates that may have been your cousins. Now you can incorporate discoveries found about them in your yearbooks into their record you have of them in your lineage program or online in your family tree. The yearbook discoveries can really add some interesting personal material to your research. You can find so much more than just birth, marriage and death information.

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