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

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our October 10, 2017 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program.

What does this really mean?

Prior to this "new" process, our program handouts would actually be paper handouts that were based on me often printing up the first page related to a web site that I wanted to mention. Then on the paper for the web site I would handwrite what things of importance are associated with the web site that the researcher should know. Maybe it was a new web site or maybe an important date related to a significant event or maybe a new database was released. Whatever it was I noted it on the paper of the first page of the web site.

The source for the vast majority of what is in the Handouts is the monthly Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Newsletter. From within this larger document I extract information on upcoming genealogy programs local to our area, important items from Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Blog, as well as I summarize some key periodical articles of interest that I think are important to be aware of. The Handouts simply provide me with the opportunity to focus in on what I consider are important genealogical bits of information important to the researcher as well as to share my own personal thoughts on why it is of note.

You will also see a small redesign of the PDF Handout package. You will now see a Table of Contents on Page 1 listing what the following "handouts" are by topic. Within the Table of contents you can quickly access the handouts by using the hyperlinks and bookmarks that will get you quickly to your handout of interest. You will no longer have to scroll through the entire package of handouts to get to the one you want.

I also plan on use the "yellow highlight" tool within Word and highlight certain areas of these notes that I think are important to note. The visual highlighting will take your eyes to areas of importance to note. Please let me know if you think this OK or if it may be a distraction? I thought I would give it a try.

Going forward I plan on creating this document on a monthly basis that will include my notes regarding a web site of interest and a link to the web site itself.

The reader of this "handout" list can themselves then read my overview summary of the site and then link to the site directly themselves to get more details or print out what they want from site.

I will clearly identify my own comments when the handout is a combination of material that came from some other source such as Dick Eastman's blog as well as my own comments. I will indicate my comments in Italics, clearly marked so the reader can distinguish between the original verbiage and my own comments. If a handout item was completely created by me then you will see that noted at the top.

In this case, the entirety of the handout was created by me and will not be shown in Italics.

This program "Handout" information will then be uploaded to the Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Blog that is titled "Genealogy with Tony". This blog will be accessible from the library's main web site page at www.schaumburglibrary.org. Select "Local History and Genealogy" at the top of the page, then look for the icon on the Local History and Genealogy page that says "Tony's Genealogy Blog". Open the blog link and then look at the right hand sidebar of the blog and you will see the "Handouts" information. The direct web address for the blog I author is <http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com>

Here we go with the list of "handouts"!

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Handout #1 – VISIT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY GENEALOGY BLOG

I will continue to remind participants of our library’s genealogy blog. You can access it through our library home page at www.SchaumburgLibrary.org by 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 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 NOVEMBER 4, 2017

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society will take place on Saturday morning November 4, 2017. The program for the morning is titled "*Chicago Research: Planning is the Key to Success*". The speaker for the morning will be **Jeanne Larzalere Bloom**.

Learn how to prepare for research in Chicago, where to locate online points of entry for Chicago records, and how to plan for onsite research. A case study demonstrates how to apply these techniques.

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 OCTOBER 18, 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, October 18, 2017 between 6:30pm to 8:30pm. (This program starts 30 minutes earlier than normally scheduled programs for this society.) Refreshments are offered at 6:00pm. The program scheduled for that evening is **"Researching Your War of 1812 Ancestors"**. The speaker for the program will be **Thomas MacEntee (via live webinar)**.

Thomas MacEntee will be presenting a "live" webinar about "Researching Your War of 1812 Ancestors"

The War of 1812, often called America's Second Revolution, left behind a valuable set of records that have proven valuable for genealogical research. Many of these records like pension files can help solve the "pre-1850 census" issues when only the head of household was named in the US federal census.

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 OCTOBER 21, 2017 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, October 21, 2017 at the NIU Center, 5555 Trillium Road, Hoffman Estates, IL between 10:30am to 12:30pm. The program scheduled for this day is **"The Real Devil in the White City – New Revelations about Dr. H. H. Holmes"**. The speaker will be **Raymond Johnson**.

New research into the infamous Dr. H.H. Holmes made famous by Erik Larson's best-selling book, "Devil In The White City"

Ray Johnson is a former criminal investigator, author, historian, researcher and owner of Johnson Research Services. He is also a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, The Jackson Park Advisory Council and founder of the non-profit, Friends of The White City.

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 NOVEMBER 14, 2017

The Genealogy program will be held on Tuesday November 14 2017 at 7:30 PM in the combined Rasmussen North and South rooms. YOU WILL NEED TO REGISTER FOR THIS PROGRAM. REGISTER YOURSELF ONLINE VIA OUR WEBSITE OR CALL OUR LIBRARY AT 847-985-4000 FOR ASSISTANCE IN REGISTERING.

The guest speaker for the evening will be Gail Lukasik Ph.D. Gail will present a program titled "Behind the Scenes: How PBS Genealogy Roadshow Solved My Family Mystery".

Gail Lukasik will share her on-screen and behind-the-scenes experiences as well as the research that went into her amazing family discovery. The author will discuss her mother's story of racial passing and her personal reflections on racial identity. Even after the show aired the story is still unfolding adding many surprising twists to her family's multiracial story.

Lukasik has a fascinating history as a ballerina. She has had careers in business and after earning a Ph.D in English she became an educator and a published writer of poetry and mystery novels.

The doors to the room will open at approximately 7 PM so participants can pick up any handouts review books and journals and interact with other participants. Tony Kierna the STDL genealogist will start the program at 7:30. Introductions of new participants will occur as well as a brief review of handouts and genealogical matters. It is expected that the guest speaker's presentation will start at around 7:45-8:00 PM. We will end the session by 9:30 PM. For further information contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.

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 TLC “WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?” SCHEDULED FOR SPRING 2018

The following was found at Dick Eastman’s Blog at www.eogn.com dated August 28, 2017.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [August 28, 2017](#) · [Video & Television](#) · [One Comment](#)

The following announcement was written by the folks at TLC:



TLC has renewed three-time Emmy nominated series *Who Do You Think You Are?* for a new season, premiering in spring 2018. Executive Produced by Lisa Kudrow and Dan Bucatinsky, the series follows some of the most beloved and iconic celebrities as they embark on personal journeys of self-discovery by tracing their own family trees. Throughout this experience they learn the truth about old family secrets, discover shocking revelations and ultimately, make unbelievable connections with the lives of their ancestors. The series is currently nominated for an Emmy Award for Structured Reality Program, its 3rd nomination in this category and 4th overall. Last year *Who Do You Think You Are?* won an Emmy for Outstanding Picture Editing for a Reality Program.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? is produced by Shed Media (a division of Warner Bros. Unscripted and Alternative Television) & Is Or Isn't Entertainment for TLC. The series is based on an original format created by Wall to Wall Media and Alex Graham.

More information can be found at TLC.com/WDYTYA. 'Like' *Who Do You Think You Are?* on [Facebook.com/WDYTYA](https://www.facebook.com/WDYTYA) and follow @WDYTYA on Twitter. Watch full episodes of this show anytime, anywhere here on [TLC GO](#).

Comments by Tony Kierna

Their back! The most well-known genealogy TV program will be coming back on the air with brand new episodes in the spring of 2018. That is the first tease. Exactly when and with what celebrities has yet to be released. “Who Do You Think You Are?” will be returning to TLC a cable station. When you take a look at the site that is part of TLC at <https://www.tlc.com/tv-shows/who-do-you-think-you-are/> you really are not seeing any information that is even hinting at the upcoming set of new shows in the Spring of 2018.

The Facebook page link above does not shed much more other than it too specifically says the series is returning in the Spring of 2018 to TLC. That is a rather long time down the road so it does not surprise me that there is very little to go on other than the series will be returning.

In the meantime, if you want to get your fix on previously aired programs go to the "Who Do You Think You Are?" part of the TLC website using the link above and check out what full shows are available for you to watch. If you have a cable subscription you identify which cable provider you have and enter in your User Name, Email or Mobile followed by the Password you created for your account with your cable provider. This opens up the connection to TLC to allow you to view past full episodes of "Who Do You Think You Are?" that are open for viewing by TLC.

I am curious to see who the next round of "stars" are that will have their ancestry revealed. I am also very curious to see if any "stars" names will be revealed that were intended to be on the show but preliminary genealogy research did not reveal anything worth TV time. By the time a star's name is revealed it has already been determined there is something fascinating in their family history that is worthy of TV time. Oh well, not only am I not a star, but my own ancestral research would not have revealed anyone or any story worthy of TV time!

Keep your ears open over the next months as TLC starts revealing more and more teasers about the new episodes and "stars" that will appear on TLC starting in the Spring of 2018.

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Handout #7 – DECIPHERING COLONIAL-ERA HANDWRITEN DOCUMENTS

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated September 5, 2017.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [September 5, 2017](#) · [Genealogy Basics](#) · [No Comments](#)

The State Archives of North Carolina blog has published a three-part series on how to interpret Colonial-era handwriting. The series includes a brief history of writing during this time period, characteristics of 17th and 18th century British-American handwriting, and some tips on deciphering the text found within these records.

The information contained will help anyone researching ancestors or history the British Isles, anywhere in the American colonies, Canada, or other English-speaking countries and colonies.

What Does That Say? Part I may be found at:

<https://ncarchives.wordpress.com/2017/08/18/what-does-that-say-series-pt-i/>.

Links to Part 2 and Part 3 are then contained in the individual articles.

Comments by Tony Kierna

There can be nothing more challenging than discovering documents related to your ancestor, written in English, and then because of the handwriting itself or the use of writing styles of the times unknown to you, becomes unreadable to you! But at least you are probably in a better situation than knowing only English and trying to research your Polish ancestors encountering documents that might be in Polish, German, Latin, or Russian. Within a single document you can find multiple languages when doing Polish research. Oh but I digress!

The website link above appears to be very, very helpful to help you on your research into Colonial-American era documents. It is not just the handwriting itself you will have to overcome. The link above makes it very clear that you may encounter the names of individuals that were often shortened such as "Ja" which stands for "James". Other shortened versions are "Reb" for "Rebecca", "Jno" for "John", and "Jere" for "Jeremiah".

You will often discover much "shorthand" writing styles in sentences such as

"I am sir yr most obt and hble servt," which reads as "I am sir your most obedient and humble servant"

"abt two hund wt of spare Cordage," which reads as "about two hundred weight of spare Cordage"

The link above to "What Does That Say, Part I" does provide some very nice visuals of the shortening of names and words and the variety of ways to best interpret many of the varieties of shorthand you might encounter used in the documents of Colonial

era ancestors. There are also many internal links within the main link above that will get you to many other resources to help you interpret this Colonial era writing.

There is also a Part II and Part III of "What Does That Say". You can find these at <https://ncarchives.wordpress.com/2017/08/28/what-does-that-say-series-pt-ii/> and <https://ncarchives.wordpress.com/2017/09/01/what-does-that-say-series-pt-iii/> .

At our library we also have a book in Reference titled "Reading Early American Handwriting" by Kip Sperry. The call number of this resource is R 929.1 SPERRY, K. This book can be used in the library but cannot be checked out.

We also have another resource in Reference titled "The Handwriting of American Records for a Period of 300 Years". The author of this book is Kirkham E. Kay. The call number of the book is R 929.3 KIRKHAM, E.

Do not get frustrated if you encounter undecipherable words and writing styles of your Colonial American documents. There are some great tools both online and in print format that easily help you to learn and understand the writing styles and use of words and naming conventions in these documents.

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Handout #8 – GENEALOGYMAGAZINE.COM LAUNCHES A YOUTUBE SERIES OFFERING ADVICE AND TIPS FOR THE FAMILY HISTORIAN

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated August 28, 2017.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [September 6, 2017](#) · [Video & Television](#) · [No Comments](#)

The following announcement was written by James Pylant, owner of GenealogyMagazine.com:



GenealogyMagazine is the name of a new YouTube series offering advice and tips for the family historian. Hosted by James Pylant, an award-winning true-crime writer, authorized celebrity biographer, and professional genealogist, each five-minute episode offers tips and "how-to" examples for genealogical research.

The first episode, "County Courthouse Research," is now available at YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/countycourthouse>

Upcoming episodes include "Family Bible Records," "Diaries and Journals," "Longevity Lies," "Misidentified Family Pictures," and "Handwriting Analysis."

About GenealogyMagazine.com: GenealogyMagazine.com is utilized as a reference by the Texas Historical Commission; Learning and Teaching Scotland's series, *SCET.Net for History: A Virtual Department*, and EBSCO Industries' *MasterFile Complete*, the largest collection of the most popular full-text magazines, journals, and other highly regarded sources from leading publishers.

About the host: James Pylant, a former contest judge for the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors, worked full-time as a professional genealogist for the Salt Lake City-based firm Lineages, Inc., in Salt Lake City, and his articles have appeared in *The Bottom Line*, *Family Chronicle*, and *Ancestry*. James extensively documented a case of identity theft and bigamy for the book *Destiny in Texas*. He co-wrote *The Oldest Profession in Texas*, called one of the most thorough studies of frontier dens of sin. He has also written a family-authorized celebrity biography, *In Morticia's Shadow: The Life & Career of Carolyn Jones*.

Comments by Tony Kierna

OK, you have got to check out the link above that will get you to the first of series of YouTube genealogy videos to help you in your research. Why the link above? Because it is short, sweet and informative as well as very humorous. You will be

smiling and probably laughing when viewing it but chances are you will remember the key points being expressed to help you in your research.

Do you remember the Monty Python episodes that were on PBS many years ago? If not then do a search for some of those episodes and the style they used to create laughter. James Pylant uses very similar humorous styles in these short 5 minute genealogy videos. You will see plenty of photos where a "talking mouth" is imposed on the picture with humorous words coming out to make a point James wants to make. James also incorporates extensive use of "vintage" film material to make his point while his narrative is taking place in the background. When he speaks about the "County Clerk" you will see what looks like a 1940s TV newsreel of a County Clerk office.

The video is worth seeing just to see the very short included segment that shows a "happy dance", you know, how you react when you make a great discovery in your research. But the message related to the aspect of genealogy research also resonates. Stay focused on the message and not the images!!

Have you ever seen a humorous commercial on TV in which you got so wrapped up in the humor that you did not necessarily know what the commercial was about?? That can happen. Sad to say, the humor of the commercial overrode the message. With the James Pylant videos I think you will love the humor as well as the message does come across clearly.

I did look at 3 of the James Pylant videos. They all run about the same length and incorporate the same style of humor. And you will smile and more likely laugh at how he uses the humorous style and vintage photos and movies to make his genealogical point.

You can get to the video on Family Bible Records at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwfkwbZhEMM> and the video on Diaries at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7Q-XQwrwuM>.

Put a smile on your face and pick up some great tips on the particular genealogy resource being discussed in the videos.

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Handout #9 – “ROAD OVERSEERS, SURVEYORS OF HIGHWAYS, AND ROAD JURIES”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the September/October 2017, Volume 3, Number 4 issue of Your Genealogy Today.

I thought that an interesting article in this issue is one titled “Road Overseers, Surveyors of Highways, and Road Juries”. The author of the article is David A. Norris.

I am always amazed at the variety of the kinds of records that exist from our ancestors. Life was so different back then. Jobs and occupations during their lives of hundreds of years ago are always a curiosity. For us living in our version of “modern” times, we are familiar with jobs that exist today as we know them. The same held true for our ancestors who knew what the job titles were at the times. But when we hear those job titles today, we often just scratch our heads and wonder what in the world was that job was of years past. That is why this article is an informative article about records that exist than can help you as well as being an article that is just plain fun.

The author notes that during our colonial times residents of many different areas were required to contribute some of their time to build public roads and bridges. This is where you may often discover the title of someone leading these efforts as being a “road overseer”. The author uses an example of records by Samuel A. Bates from Braintree, Massachusetts. The record source is known as *Records of the Town of Braintree 1640-1793*. Records note that a “surveyor of highways” was appointed on a yearly basis. During the changeover annually, the previous surveyor name was noted as well as the replacement for the current year. In these records you will often see family involvement from year to year in a variety of different jobs. One year it may be the father as surveyor, another year it appears to be the son of the father holding a job titled “fence viewer”. Then it may be another son in another year holding a job as “sealer of leather”.

The author also notes how the use of terms can make your research even more challenging. Oftentimes these “road committees” were referred to as “juries”. It was not a jury related to legal activities. Just a term applied to roads. So be careful if you ever come across such a term. Know how it is used in the context of the records.

A road overseer may very well be an appointed job consisting of no pay and taking up good amounts of time. Needless to say, it was not looked upon as something you wanted to do. But you could not get out of the service. If you refused you were often fined \$50 according to the author referring to an 1831 Mississippi law. Sometimes the only version of compensation for a “road overseer” might be an exemption from serving in the militia or from jury duty (real, legal jury duty). Things were so bad related to being a “road overseer” that the state of New Jersey passed a law in 1774 forbidding “road overseers” from begging or extorting for money or alcohol from a passerby!!

The author even notes that very strict laws regarding mandatory service on roads are traced back to 1635 in Massachusetts. There is a long history of "road overseers" and the mandatory requirements and fines associated with the work should it not be done.

Minimum work was often done by a "road overseer" in fulfilling their obligation. They often did not want to involve their friends and neighbors and be looked down upon. They often did the minimum amount of work to avoid being fined. Consequently, the roads were generally in poor conditions for long periods of time.

Even a former President got involved as a "road overseer". President John Tyler after leaving the White House in 1845 returned back to Virginia and became a "road overseer". It is said he used the "road overseer" position to exact political revenge on his enemies by an aggressive use of his "road overseer" authority!

By the 1850s the "road overseer" position was in a state of transition to becoming a paid governmental job. It often was used as a political stepping stone by the incumbent to move onto other political jobs.

Road taxes also existed and were applied to owners of property. You might be levied a small fee and could pay it off with your own manual labor involvement working roads for a couple of days or you could provide road crews with your wagons or draft animals to also fulfill your obligation to make payment on a road tax.

The author notes that many of these records have not been processed for digitization or indexing. You may have to look at local government records that might exist in microfilm format. Sort of like looking for a needle in the proverbial haystack! The author suggests using digitized newspaper records looking for such things as "road overseer" or looking for "delinquent road tax payers".

Also consider searching colonial law books.

It is possible that more and more of these interesting records will be discovered in the future as more records become digitized and indexed.

I just thought this was a very interesting article on a topic I never knew really existed. This is just a fun article to read through.

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Handout #10 – “USING APPRENTICE RECORDS FOR GENEALOGY SEARCHES”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the September/October 2017, Volume 3, Number 4 issue of Your Genealogy Today.

Another interesting article in this issue is titled “Using Apprentice Records for Genealogy Searches”. The author of the article is Ed Storey.

Apprentice programs started in England in the 12th century. Guilds were concerned about their reputations and the quality of work they produced. Apprentices were one way they could be assured of a steady flow of qualified craftsmen through their ranks. Records for these apprentices could go a long way back so it is highly unlikely many exist. The author does suggest looking at FindMyPast because they do have some. Or try using Google with the search term “Historic Guild Records”.

Two other additional reasons for apprentices were that churches of the time used apprentice programs to provide for destitute children that were poor. Also, local governments saw apprentice programs as a means to deal with orphans in a way that minimized taxpayer expense.

Most apprentice records are far more current than expecting to discover 12th century records. Because there were expenses involved by the guild halls, records were often detailed and accurate between craftsman and apprentice as to food, lodging, pay (possibly) and tools. It is often seen that agreements made between the parties were also signed by witnesses providing the researcher with more names to possibly research that may be connected to the craftsman or the apprentice.

The author suggests the following as good resources to possibly find apprentice records:

- Ancestry.com and other paid services (use the term “apprentice” in the keyword section of the card catalog). Don’t expect to find lots of records. You may find both American apprentice records and overseas apprentice records.
- Online book websites. Check WorldCat.org for apprentice books and records. Also check Google Books since it is likely the material you seek is out of copyright and could be discovered in Google Books. Also try the HathiTrust.org for apprentice book material.
- Government sources such as the archives for a country. In the U.S. consider the National Archives or the Library of Congress. In Britain, consider the National Archives of the UK. Consider using the search term “Digital Microfilm” as part of your search for these apprentice records and look for a response noting UK. There are records for the time period for these British records from 1710 to 1810 in a section labeled as IR-1. Unfortunately, there are no indices for these records to go find a name. It will take browsing on your part of the data.

Arrangements were often made between parent and craftsman. You will often see the location of the craftsman but not necessarily the place from where the apprentice is from, though you could assume very local.

The apprentice often lived with the master craftsman more often in part of the shop or the store. He might eat with the family. If the apprentice family lived nearby he might visit them on weekends. If the master and the craftsman got along well, it could be likely the apprentice could succeed the master.

Apprentice records are not a major source of discovery because so few actually survive. However, if lucky enough to discover some applicable to an ancestor of interest, there is a good possibility you will discover insights into the ancestor unobtainable anywhere else.

This was just another very interesting article in this issue on a topic for possible record discovery that is just not that likely but can lead to some fascinating discoveries.

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