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

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our December 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 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 JANUARY 6, 2018

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society will take place on Saturday morning January 6, 2018. The program for the morning is titled "*Digitizing Photos and Slides*". The speaker for the morning will be **Debra Dudek**.

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

You may visit the society web page at:

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

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

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

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**Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT
REGULAR SOCIETY PROGRAM ON JANUARY 17, 2018**

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, January 17, 2018 between 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Refreshments are offered at 6:30pm. The program scheduled for that evening is **“Reconstructing Your Soldier’s WW I Experience”**. The speaker for the program will be **Tina Beard**.

Many federal WWI personnel records were destroyed in a National Archives fire in the 1970s. Tina offers ways to locate copies of peripheral federal military records and provides solutions for recreating some of your soldier's lost military history by using local government documents, newspapers and more.

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 JANUARY 20, 2018 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, January 20, 2018 at the Schaumburg Township District Library, 130 S. Roselle Road, Schaumburg, IL between 10:30am to 12:30pm. The program scheduled for this day is **"Brick by Brick: Tracing Your Home's History"**. The speaker will be **Tina Beaird**.

If walls could talk was your home moved, damaged by fire or enlarged to accommodate a growing family? Tina will provide strategies for researching the history of your home using government records, newspapers, phone directories, maps and other resources. Every home tells a story - what does your say?

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 JANUARY 9, 2018

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, January 9, 2018.

Maureen Brady will be our guest speaker for the evening. Maureen will present a program titled "Optimize Your Online Genealogy Searches: Its More Than FamilySearch and Ancestry.com".

Maureen Brady will help you learn how to jump start your online genealogy research by utilizing Cyndis List Find My Past Fold3 USGenWeb and other "broad coverage" websites.

Maureen Brady is a former school librarian and computer educator. She has over 35 years' experience with family history research, is a professional genealogist, and owner of Bare Roots Genealogical Services. Maureen has made numerous presentations to Illinois and Wisconsin genealogical societies, libraries, conferences, and workshops. Ms. Brady is co-director of the Crystal Lake (Illinois) Family History Center and is a member of many genealogical and family history societies in the U.S. and Scotland.

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 – RECORDED MYHERITAGE GENEALOGY SEMINAR WEBINARS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE FOR FREE

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated November 1, 2017.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [November 1, 2017](#) · [Education](#) · [One Comment](#)

In an article I published a couple of weeks ago (and still visible to all at <http://bit.ly/2z5CjgK>), I mentioned that MyHeritage would be holding free online webinars featuring the participation of experts in DNA, Jewish genealogy, general research techniques, and technology trends for genealogy. That webinar was held on October 19.



The webinars did take place and they were also recorded. If you missed the original events, you can still listen to them today. Details may be found at <http://bit.ly/2hwaTt4>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Over the years you have heard me emphasize how much I like the online genealogy learning experience via webinars or videos. This case is no different.

MyHeritage recently purchased Legacy Family Tree. One of the highlights for Legacy Family Tree was the quality and volume of the webinars they offered. I believe that was one of the reasons that MyHeritage saw them as a great company to come under the wings of MyHeritage. That transition has taken place. You can still find some great online webinars at Legacy Family Tree.

For those of you that are doing any Jewish genealogical research, it is worth your while to take a look at the last link in the above Dick Eastman article. It is here that you will see the most recently held webinars. Two of the webinars are focused on Jewish research. One of these webinars is titled "Filling in the In-Between of the Jewish BMD" presented by Rose Feldman. The other Jewish oriented webinar is titled "Jewish Family Research Challenges" presented by Garri Regev.

The good thing is that not only are the above two webinars free to watch but there are 5 other free webinars to view on a myriad of genealogical topics. Other webinars offered for free from this most recent production of webinars are:

[Introduction to the Use of Autosomal DNA Testing](#) by Tim Janzen

[Google for Genealogy: Search Tricks to Tease Out Information](#) by Jessica Taylor

[Discover Your Family History with MyHeritage's Unique Technologies](#) by Daniel Horowitz

[How to Pass Your Ancestors' Legacy to Your Grandchildren](#) by Jessica Taylor

[Advanced Autosomal DNA Techniques used in Genetic Genealogy](#) by Tim Janzen

But as the fast-pitched TV commercials for various products often say "But wait, there's more!". The same goes for Legacy Family Tree Webinars. When you go to the last link in the above Dick Eastman article, you will also discover an embedded link that will take you 50 other "free" Legacy Family Tree Webinars!

You can certainly do some binge-watching. Plus, I also notice you also have access to the syllabus associated with the webinar. Free is good because Legacy Family Tree Webinars are a subscribable service. Take advantage of the large amount of "free" webinars without subscribing. Services like this often do not keep such a high amount of "free" webinars free forever. They use the "free" designation to get you interested. Perhaps you may want to subscribe to the webinars offered by Legacy Family Tree. But for now, take advantage of the 57 free webinars right now. Lots of good ones.

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Handout #7 – ANCESTRY ADDS OPTION TO SHARE OR NOT TO SHARE DNA INFORMATION

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

[Dick Eastman](#) · [November 3, 2017](#) · [DNA](#) · [9 Comments](#)

Ancestry has announced a new update to its popular DNA service: an option to share DNA information or to keep the information private. In a statement released yesterday, the company states:

"Customers can now decide if they want to have access to the list of people they may be related to and be shown as a potential family member for other customers with whom they share DNA. While connecting family is one of the main benefits of our service, we also recognize that not everyone is open to discovering their extended family."

The full announcement may be found at: <http://ancstry.me/2A5suyF>.

My thanks to the several newsletter readers who told me about the new announcement.

Comments by Tony Kierna

My own personal experience with DNA for genealogy is through Family Tree DNA. When you submit your DNA the expectation is that you will want to know who you are matched to that could be a newly discovered cousin. Likewise, when you participate, it is expected that your DNA results will also be shared with potential matches for them to discover you. In fact, that is exactly how my experience has been. I have been contacted by at least 5 individuals who saw that our centimorgan match number was fairly high. This gave them the clue that we may be genetically connected, not at a near generational level, but likely at a more distant level in the past.

Ancestry through their Ancestry DNA product has now taken participation to a level that allows the DNA customer to take it to a more controlled level by allowing them to "not" share their DNA results with possible matches. In a way this new direction matches choices we have often had with other products such as family trees where we can designate them as private or public. This seems to make sense that a similar choice for the customer to make their DNA results "private" or "public".

Quoting from Eastman's article:

"Customers can now decide if they want to have access to the list of people they may be related to and be shown as a potential family member for other customers with whom they share DNA. While connecting family is one of the main benefits of our service, we also recognize that not everyone is open to discovering their extended family."

"For existing customers, if you want to continue to see and be seen by your DNA matches, you don't need to do anything. You still have access to your DNA Match list and you will still show up as a potential match to others and can change your preference on your DNA Settings page. If you change the setting to "no" you will no longer have access to your DNA Matches and no longer be shown as a DNA Match for others. You can change your mind at any time by going to the DNA Settings page."

So now within Ancestry DNA you will have more control over who can see your DNA results. It would not surprise me to see this choice filter down to all other providers of DNA for genealogy to allow those customers to also pick and choose whether their results will be "private" or "public".

For me personally, I would probably leave mine open to the public. I have had good results from currently leaving them in that manner and I just would not see a reason to change to "private". But at least users of Ancestry DNA can now determine for themselves how their results are presented.

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Handout #8 – WHY WAS THE INFORMATION RMOVED FROM ONLINE?

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated October 26, 2017.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [October 26, 2017](#) · [Online Sites](#) · [15 Comments](#)

NOTE: *This is a slightly updated version of an article I published about a year ago. A newsletter reader sent a message to me recently expressing dissatisfaction with records that once were available online but recently have disappeared. I am offering this republished article as an explanation about why we should not be surprised when that happens. I believe that every genealogist should understand why this happens so this article bears repeating every year or two. Please feel free to republish this article in newsletters, message boards, or forward it in email messages as you see fit.*

I will also offer a suggestion as to making sure you keep your own copies of online records that are valuable to you.

A newsletter reader sent an email message to me recently expressing dissatisfaction that a set of images of vital records has been removed from one of the very popular genealogy sites. Indeed, removal of any online records of genealogical value is sad, but not unusual. Changes such as these are quite common on FamilySearch, MyHeritage, Ancestry.com, Fold3, FindMyPast, and many other genealogy sites that provide digital images of old records online. Removal of datasets has occurred dozens of times in the past, and I suspect such things will continue to happen in the future. I thought I would write a brief explanation.

In almost all cases, information of genealogical value obtained from government agencies, religious groups, museums, genealogy societies, and other organizations is provided under contractual agreements. The contracts specify what information is to be provided, how it is to be made available, and what price the web site has to pay to the provider for the records. **All contracts also have a defined expiration date,** typically 2 years or 3 years or perhaps 5 years after the contract is signed.

When a contract nears expiration, the two parties usually attempt to renegotiate the contract. Sometimes renewal is automatic, but more often it is not. Maybe the information provider (the government agency, religious group, museum, genealogy society, and other organization) decides they want more money, or maybe they decide they no longer want to supply the data to the online genealogy service. For instance, in the time the information has been available online, the information provider may have learned just how valuable the information really is. The information provider may decide to ask for more money or may even refuse to provide the information any more since the provider may have a **NEW plan to create their own web site and offer the same information online on their own, new web site for a fee.**

Sure, that stinks for those of us who would like to have the information everywhere; but, it makes sense to most everyone else. I am sure the budget officer at most any state or local government archive thinks it makes sense.

Every contract renegotiation is different, but it is not unusual to agree to disagree. The contract ends, and the web site provider legally **MUST** remove the information from their web site. The same thing frequently happens to all the other online sites that provide old records online.

Moral of this story: If you find a record online that is valuable to you, **SAVE IT NOW!** Save it to your hard drive and make a backup copy someplace else as well. If there is no option to save, make a screen shot and save it on your hard drive or some other place where it will last for many years. Just because you can see the record online today does not mean that it will be available tomorrow.

Comments by Tony Kierna

(Please note, the following comment from me originally appeared in my July 2016 handouts. My response was as meaningful then as it is now. Thought I would go back and provide you with my views on material that at one time was online and then mysteriously disappears.)

The classic case of material that appeared online for free and then completely disappeared was that of the FamilySearch Cook County Illinois Vital Records. A few years back, you could access the various Cook County, Illinois Vital Records of births, marriages and deaths. You could search an index for the surname of interest, find a good hit, and then link yourself to the image of the original document. You could save the image to your own hard drive or storage device all for free.

As they say. "If it sounds too good, then something must be wrong". In this case it sounded good and actually was good until Cook County realized they could create a better deal for themselves. Researchers soon discovered that the images they saw linked to the surnames of their ancestors suddenly disappeared one day. Yes, you could still search an index and still get results of the transcribed, but the link to the image was no longer there. As researchers we know how valuable it is to be able to see an original document, especially one from which transcription was done. These document images often provided more information than what was contained in the transcribed index portion being shown on the screen.

I am so thankful that during this time that the full data was available online, that I had been downloading the image to my flashdrive for inclusion into my lineage program. I easily downloaded a couple of hundred images.

Where did the original images that were once provided go? They reverted back to the control of Cook County through their newly updated contract with FamilySearch. The initial contract through a certain expiration date allowed for these images to be shown. You see, by this time Cook County had created its own genealogy oriented website to access Vital Records online. They realized they were sitting on a goldmine of data that was no longer going to be available for free. And so through the website at www.cookcountygenealogy.com researchers could search the records for their ancestors. When a good match occurred from a searchable index, the researcher could now see the image if they were willing to spend \$15 for the privilege to obtain a PDF image of what was at one time free.

For me, I figure I probably downloaded anywhere between the equivalent of \$1,500 to \$3,000 worth of data if I were to have requested the material from Cook County.

The lesson to be learned here is that if you discover an image associated with an ancestral search you are doing online, be sure you download immediately if it is for free. DO NOT ASSUME THAT YOU CAN COME BACK TO THE SITE AND FIND IT AGAIN FOR FREE! It may now be available now only for a significant cost. Or, it may no longer even be available online at all as the holding organization may have simply decided to pull down all of the data it once freely made available.

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Handout #9 – “DIGITAL RATHER THAN MICROFILM ACCESS TO FAMILYSEARCH RECORDS”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the July-September 2017, Volume 43, Number 3 issue of NGS Magazine.

I thought that a good article included in this issue is titled “Digital Rather Than Microfilm Access to FamilySearch Records”. The author of the article is FamilySearch. The article is very timely and can certainly help the researcher make his way through the fact that FamilySearch is no longer providing microfilms to researchers as of September 7, 2017.

Here are the key points of the article:

- Microfilm to Digital Transitioning
 - FamilySearch start using digital cameras in 1998 to capture documents.
 - Conversion of existing microfilm material to digital format began in 2004.
 - First images of digitized microfilm material were made available in 2007.
 - Today, all camera work being done by FamilySearch is digital.
- Status of Digitization
 - FamilySearch has digitized over 1.5 million reels of the 2.4 million reels in its collection
 - Currently, 1.1 million digitized rolls are available to anyone at any FamilySearch Family History Center.
 - FamilySearch is negotiating contracts for restricted collections to allow publication of this material on the Internet.
 - Before becoming available in name-searchable or image-browseable historical record collections, digitized microfilms are first published in the FamilySearch catalog. Currently 870,000 digitized rolls are available only through the catalog.
 - For those digitized rolls in the catalog, a camera icon without an associated key icon means the film is available to anyone to view. A camera icon with a key icon means that film that while digitally viewable, has restrictions on it limiting viewing through a Family History Center or a FamilySearch Affiliate Library.
 - FamilySearch Affiliate Libraries have been working with FamilySearch to be sure the affiliate has technical capabilities to allow viewing of these restricted digital rolls. (I have personally verified that affiliate libraries in our area can access microfilm reel numbers from the catalog that are shown with a

camera icon and a key. You will not have to go only to a Family History Center to view these films. Affiliates that are normally public libraries now have the capability for you to view these films. Plus they are generally open every day and have longer hours when open to view these films.)

- The Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Films not onsite at the Family History Library can be requested 24 hours in advance of use and films will be duplicated from the granite vault storage facility and provided to the Family History Library.
- Films are being digitally converted in the order of most requested and used. FamilySearch is noting that if you need a film to be digitized can request that it be added to the priority digitization list by calling FamilySearch support toll free at 866-406-1830.

- **Restricted Access**

- Due to contractual reasons, access to some digitized rolls is restricted in some fashion.
 - Some digitized data may not be available via the Internet.
 - Some digitized data may not be available at all to the general public.
 - Some digitized data may not be available in certain geographic area.
 - Some digitized data may only be available for viewing online only at a Family History Center or a FamilySearch Affiliate Library.
 - Some digitized rolls are not available anywhere due to privacy laws.
 - Some parts of digitized rolls are restricted due to laws. If a part of a roll is restricted, the entire roll is restricted from viewing. FamilySearch is developing the capability to display partial digital rolls of data to honor the restriction regarding the parts that cannot be viewed.

- **Microfilms in Family History Centers and Affiliate Libraries**

- Any microfilms currently in inventory at family history centers or affiliates have been designated as extended loans and do not have to be returned to Salt Lake City.
- Local family history centers or affiliates can choose to return the films in their inventory if they choose.
- Microfilms are the property of FamilySearch and may not be donated, given away, sold or relocated without prior permission.

This is a very good and informative small article and very timely for researchers to gain a better understanding for them to access to digital material from FamilySearch. For personal films of interest to me I have seen the variety of categories for these

films. Some are readily available to me to access online from anywhere. Some films are digitally available but only available for me to see at a Family History Center or an Affiliate. And yes, some films are in microfilm format that very well may have restrictions or be at the bottom of any priority list for digitization. For all I know I may be the only one interested in these type of films. They certainly do not have a high number of uses.

I am also in the process of obtaining permission from NGS Magazine to allow me to make paper copies of the article to use as a handout at our genealogy programs.

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Handout #10 – “RECORDING TOOLS FOR AUDIO FAMILY HISTORY”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the July-September 2017, Volume 43, Number 3 issue of NGS Magazine.

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled “Recording Tools for Audio Family History”. The author of the article is Jordan Jones.

Hearing stories from our relatives about our ancestors is wonderful and inspiring. However, our own memories of listening to those stories can be fleeting and not permanent. Now is the time to consider capturing the stories of the lives of our cousins and living relatives while we can. How about capturing your own story? Data is nice to discover and document. Stories about an individual add that much more. We can't hear the voice of someone from 150 years ago who passed away. So why not take the opportunity in your family history research to start capturing the images and audio of those who are alive by capturing their stories of their lives.

This is a good article that lays out a nice framework for the technical and software resources to consider using to capture these stories.

The author gives these suggestions on how to go about “collecting” your stories:

- Choose the interview subject
 - Who among the elderly might have a story to tell?
 - Who knew a great-grandfather?
 - Who might know why the family moved west?
- Prepare a list of prompts
 - Create a list of jumping off points for the conversation. Don't rely on pulling these points out of your head.
 - Maybe a picture is a jumping off point.
 - Maybe an existing story that can be told with even more detail is a jumping off point.
- Decide what tools to use
 - Do want to record just an audio interview? Do you want to record a video/audio interview?
 - Will you use software that came with your desktop/laptop/mobile? Special software that is over and above the basic?
 - Will you record with the idea of the recording be public or private?
- Plan the Interview

- Choose a time and place that is convenient and comfortable for the person being interviewed.
- Limit the time for the convenience of the person being interviewed, especially if that person is elderly.

- StoryCorps

- Consider StoryCorps as one of those tools to use to make your recordings. You can access them online at <https://storycorps.org>.
- Generally consists of two relatives or close friends where one is telling a story with a few prompts from the other.
- StoryCorps has stationary booths in New York, San Francisco and Atlanta as well as has traveling booths in an Airstream trailer.
- Its mobile app for iOS and Android allows anyone to record stories and share the stories for free. The website for StoryCorps allows uploading of recordings made without using the app. It accepts many different audio formats for uploading.
- StoryCorps archives recordings at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

- StoryWorth

- (iOS) <https://www.storyworth.com>
- Captures written or audio stories and features an Apple TV app that allows playback of the audio on a TV with an Apple TV device.
- Reminder emails are sent to the interviewer or the interviewee every week for a year.
- Questions can be selected from a preset list or created from scratch.
- Responses can be in writing or in audio format.
- At the end of the year the stories, transcriptions of the recordings, photos etc. are put together into a draft of the book.
- Copies of the created are then available to purchase.
- Full cost for StoryWorth participation and creation of material is \$79.

- StoryGlory

- (iOS) <http://storyglory.me>
- Designed to elicit comments and stories around a photo uploaded to the app.
- Similar to a Facebook post, except that it is shared only with a specific list of family members. Emphasis is on audio responses.

- Free starter account to trial the process.
- A “storyteller” account for \$90 per year allows you to download photos, movies and get live support.
- One printed book also included with the annual subscription with starter account of \$100; additional books at \$80; scanning of 100 photos for free; additional scans at \$.40 each.

- FamilySearch Memories

- iOS and Android
- Free photo and audio sharing app
- Photos and recordings can be associated with people in the FamilySearch tree.
- All items are backed up to FamilySearch databases.
- Upload and manage photos, written stories, documents and audio recordings at <https://familysearch.org/photos>

- Using what is available

- Family stories don’t need a fancy program.
- A smartphone, tablet or computer will produce serviceable recordings.
- Consider using Microsoft’s Windows Movie Maker or Apple’s iMovie or TechSmith’s product called Camtasia at <https://www.techsmith.com/camtasia.html> (\$199).
- Consider Evernote mobile app for iOS and Android. Open a note, click on microphone icon, record an MP3 and upload the recording to Evernote.
- Use these more readily available ways to capture audio. Don’t lose out on the opportunity to record.

- Preservation of recordings

- Crucial to take the time to preserve the recorded memories.
- Some of the recordings from designated apps will go directly to the Cloud. Others may just go to the desktop.
- You are better off getting the memories into the Cloud
 - Dropbox
 - Google Drive
 - OneDrive
- Still back up any recorded memories on your own local devices.

Remember, it is always best to start capturing the stories of our living relatives before you even start doing your genealogical research. Great plan, but it does not always work out. If you never recorded those stories and just jumped headlong into research, consider taking a pause on the research and switch over to capturing those stories. Perhaps you may realize a key relative may have passed away since your research started. Now is the time to realize those memories are only there as long

as those relatives are still alive. Consider that you have been given another chance to capture the stories.

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