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February 13, 2018 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our February 13, 2018 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 MARCH 3, 2018

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society will take place on Saturday morning March 3, 2018. The program for the morning is titled "**Learning Your Way Around Ancestry DNA**". The speaker for the morning will be **Karen Stanbary, CG**.

Ancestry DNA is the most popular DNA test, largely due to Ancestry's marketing. If you've had your DNA tested through Ancestry, you will want to attend Karen's presentation. **She is custom making this presentation for us!!** She will walk us through all the features on the site. The most useful tool is the Shared Matches and she will teach us how to use that and also how to narrow down how closely related we are to our matches. She will tell us how to attach a tree to our site to get DNA circles. She will also cover how to message our matches to increase the likelihood of having them contact us. She will also tell us a little bit about Gedmatch.

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

You may visit the society web page at:

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

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

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

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**Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT
REGULAR SOCIETY PROGRAM ON FEBRUARY 21, 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, February 21, 2018 between 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Refreshments are offered at 6:30pm. The program scheduled for that evening is *"Untying the Knot: Divorce Records"*. The speaker for the program will be Kimberly Nagy.

There is a wealth of information to be found in divorce records including marriage dates, birth dates of the couple and their children, and locations. Beyond this, these records offer an insight into their personalities and possessions. This session will explore the process of finding divorce records as well as how to get the most information from those records.

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 FEBRUARY 17, 2018 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, February 17, 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 "*Tracing Your World War I Immigrant Ancestors in "Alien Papers"*". The speaker will be **Debra Dudek**.

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

Debra Dudek is head of Adult and Teen Services at the Fountaindale Public Library District in Bolingbrook, IL. Ms. Dudek specializes in British genealogy and technology topics. She is currently pursuing a second masters degree in Genealogical, Palaeographic & Heraldic Studies from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland.

You may visit the organization web page at:

www.CAGGNI.org

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

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Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON MARCH 13, 2018

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, March 13, 2018.

We will have another “break-out” session for our gathering on March 13, 2018. Our previous attempts proved to be quite a good success. I would like us to build on those successes and afford those participants the opportunity to meet with those again or sample other groups.

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

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

I want to reconvene the following groups:

- Polish Researchers
- German Researchers
- Czech Researchers
- Irish Researchers
- Italian Researchers
- British Researchers
- Scandinavian Researchers
- Colonial Americans Researchers
- DNA/Adoption Researchers (NEW as of 12/16!)

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

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

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

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

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

I look forward to our next "break-out" session on March 13, 2017.

You may visit the library's web page at:

www.SchaumburgLibrary.org

to view a Calendar of Events section of the library web page for this program and for many more non-genealogical programs offered by our library.

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

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Handout #6 – CANADA REMOVES SOME ACCESS RESTRICTIONS TO THEIR COUNTRY CENSUS

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated January 3, 2018.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [January 3, 2018](#) · [Legal Affairs](#) · [No Comments](#)

The following was first posted by Gail Dever on her blog, [Genealogy à la carte](#), then forwarded by the IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee:



The Canadian Parliament enacted legislation, C-36, amending the Statistics Act. It received Royal Assent on December 12, 2017, making it law.

Provisions that are of interest to genealogists include:

- Transfer of census records to the Library and Archives Canada 92 years from when the census was taken.
- This will apply to all censuses conducted from 2021 onwards
- For censuses taken in 2006, 2011, and 2016 and for the 2011 National Household Survey, the government will honor the rules set at the time and records will be released where consent has been given.

History

In 2005 the Statistics Act was amended to require Canadians the choice to decide whether they wanted their census records released after 92 years starting with the 2006 census an "opt in" provision. If they answered "no" or left the question blank, (that was considered a NO) then their personal information would remain confidential in perpetuity. The 2005 legislation also required a full review and study by a parliamentary committee to assess the impact of this consent-based approach on the research integrity of the census after the 2011 census and two years before that for 2016.

In 2006 only 55%; in 2011 66 % and in 2016 81% agreed to eventual access of their census information. That was recognized as a long-term damage to the census being used for statistically valid record of the Canadian population.

Genealogists under took an email campaign opposing this amendment. Genealogists again showed they can "win" if they work together!

To read the new law see:

<http://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/bill/C-36/royal-assent>

Comments by Tony Kierna

And you think the U.S. Census makes things difficult for doing research! My gosh, the U.S. Census restricts us to wait 70 years before data becomes available to research. How could they do that to us!

Take a deep breath and read through the Canadian Census restrictions that have actually been eased up since 2005. First of all, remember that I said the U.S. Census restricts making census data available for 70 years before it is released. Did you see what it said for the Canadian withholding interval? Try 92 years. In fact, many European countries restrict access for 100 years before that particular census data is made available.

*Canada in 2005 also made it significantly more difficult to access census data over and above a 92 year withholding interval. They left the decision up to the individual to choose whether they wanted their data released after 92 years. They could have said "Yes" make it available or "No" do not make it available. Incidentally, those that did not respond to the questions were automatically set to "Do **Not** make the data available" after 92 years.*

Picture future researchers 92 years into the future looking at the 2011 census in 2103 for their relatives only to discover no information is there for that family because they either chose to not make it available or they did not respond and it was automatically set to not make it available.

However, there is now hope since restrictions have been eased. It looks like more and more surveys have been showing an increasing willingness to allow the census data to be available based on individual responses. Only 55% wanted to share their data in 2006. In 2016 about 81% were willing to share their data.

It does look like the 2011 Canadian national census will still operate under the rules that took place in 2011, meaning a lot of people opted out in addition to a lot of people defaulted to opting out because they did not respond with a clear "Yes" or "No". I guess those future researchers will have to try to figure out why ancestors from 2011 are not showing up in that year's census.

I think another lesson to learn from this is respond "Yes" or "No" yourself. Don't let the government determine a "No" for you by default.

I did take a look at the actual law from the link above. I think I need to look at it on a day when I am fresh and have energy to review legislative language that is wonky at best.

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Handout #7 – GENOME OF MAN WHO DIED IN 1827 HAS BEEN REVERSE ENGINEERED WITHOUT ANY REMAINS

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated January 17, 2018.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [January 17, 2018](#) · [DNA](#) · [4 Comments](#)

Hans Jonatan was born in the Caribbean in 1784, migrated to Iceland in 1802, and died in 1827 – and scientists have just managed to reconstruct part of his genome from 182 of his descendants, even though Hans' remains have long since been lost.

This remarkable feat of reverse genetic engineering – the first time someone's genotype has been reconstructed using only descendants rather than their physical remains – reveals that Hans' mother was originally from somewhere in the Benin, Nigeria, and Cameroon region.

The study demonstrates that with enough genealogical and genotype data available, reconstructing a historical genome sequence like this is possible.

"With extensive genealogical records, genotype data and divergent ancestry, genome reconstruction of an ancestor who died almost 200 years ago is relatively straightforward," conclude the researchers.

You can read more in an article by David Nield in the *ScienceAlert* web site at: <http://bit.ly/2EP1XrS>. DNA experts may also want to read the rather technical article that explains how Hans Jonatan's genome was determined in an article (that requires payment) in *Nature* at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41588-017-0031-6>.

Comments by Tony Kierna

OK, can true cloning be far behind? Each passing day we learn of another aspect of genealogical DNA that was in the realm of science fiction. And yet we hear of another magical development.

I will say that the story is unique because of the connection to Iceland and its small and rather captive population on an island. It also does not hurt because the family tree of the entire country exists from which the DNA of Hans Jonatan through his descendants can more readily be accessed and studied. While it now appears that genome sequencing can be done on a deceased person without having any remains, it may not be that easy of a process in much larger societies in populations of millions. But the fact that it can be done is astounding.

I am no scientist. DNA even for genealogical purposes can still make my head swim. Perhaps the DNA companies where we had our DNA tested could create this magic by looking at the list of the matches we receive when we submit our DNA. Perhaps they could study, analyze and calculate and create a genome sequence for an unknown ancestor even further back in time by using the DNA results for the matches we receive??

Since I had a background in marketing my brain is already seeing the development of another product from within the DNA testing companies. They do a similar calculation from your list of DNA matches and create a more distant genome characteristic of a deeper ancestor that could identify a location where that ancestor came from. Let's see ... maybe a \$299 product to tell you this information. Are you buying? Some of you would.

And just think, genealogical DNA analysis started out many years ago as a kernel of an idea that was probably viewed as science fiction back then. And look what we have today. A whole industry cranking out DNA test results with matches to people who are our own cousins in some fashion. Distantly related, but cousins none less all sharing a common ancestor.

So get your credit cards out again. I see a new product evolving down the road that could possible re-create the story above. Genome sequences of ancestors created just from the descendants they created. Go figure!

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Handout #8 – 2017 GENEALOGY SOFTWARE USERS CHOICE AWARDS ANNOUNCED BY GENSOFTREVIEWS

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated January 2, 2018.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [January 2, 2018](#) · [Software](#) · [5 Comments](#)

The following announcement was written by GenSoftReviews:

The 9th annual Users Choice Awards have been tabulated and awarded at the [GenSoftReviews](#) website.



During 2017, 82 of the nearly 1,000 programs listed received 535 reviews. Along with the review, users rated the programs from 1 to 5 star, with 5 being best. Programs that received at least one review in 2017 with 10 or more all-time reviews that achieved a user rating of at least 4.00 out of 5 receive a GenSoftReviews User Choice Award for 2017. The award reflects that the program is well-liked by its users.

The 25 programs awarded a GenSoftReview Users Choice Award as a Top Rated Genealogy Software for 2017 are:

- **13 Windows programs:** Family Historian, Ahnenblatt, Personal Ancestral File, Family Book Creator, Ancestral Quest, Generations, Brother's Keeper, RootsMagic, The Master Genealogist, Relatively Yours, Family Tree Builder, Family Tree Maker (up to Version 16), and Ages!
- **3 Mac programs:** iFamily for Mac, Heredis for Mac, and Reunion
- **4 programs built for Windows, Mac and Unix:** Evidentia, Ancestris, Familienbande, and GenealogyJ
- **5 Online programs:** Famberry, The Next Generation, Genealogie Online, webtrees, and MyHeritage
- **0 Handheld programs.**

The top program for 2017 was Evidentia, a program that helps you analyze evidence. Evidentia had an almost perfect user rating of 4.98 out of 5 based on 14 reviews. iFamily for Mac, a full-featured genealogy program for the Mac, was second at 4.95 out of 5 also on 14 ratings. And the online program Famberry was third with 4.94 out of 5 from 61 ratings.

New to the list of winners for 2017 was Ancestris, a free full-featured program from France. Ancestris received 8 reviews in 2017 bringing it to 12 reviews in total and making it eligible for the first time. Ancestris placed fourth overall with a 4.92 out of 5 rating.

Heredis for Mac rejoined the winners in 2017 after previously having won from 2012 to 2015. It dropped off the list in 2016 because it did not have any reviews in that year.

Winners in 2016 that dropped off the list this year include GenSmarts and Aldfaer which did not have any reviews in 2017, as well as Clooz and Heredis for PC whose overall rating dropped below 4.00 in 2017.

Several unsupported programs are still thought of highly enough by their users that they won an award in 2017. These include: Personal Ancestral File, Generations, The Master Genealogist, Relatively Yours, and Family Tree Maker up to Version 16.

Six programs have been GenSoftReviews User Choice Award winners every year since the awards began in 2009. They are: Personal Ancestral File, The Next Generation, Brother's Keeper, RootsMagic, Family Tree Builder and Reunion.

GenSoftReviews uses a time-weighted average score. The weight of every user rating is reduced 50% every year, so newer opinions will be better reflected in the overall average score.

GenSoftReviews was created to be a site, somewhat like TripAdvisor for travelers, where genealogists can go to express their feelings about the genealogy software that they've used and tried. The reviews and ratings will likely help other genealogists who are looking for new software. It is hoped the developers of the programs also will see and use the reviews at GenSoftReviews to improve their programs.

For more information and a complete listing of current and past winners, see [the Users Choice Award Winners page](#) at GenSoftReviews.

Comments by Tony Kierna

I find these can of awards very useful to reflect on. They do come about as a result of many users supplying reviews of various software products they use. There are guidelines in place as to how reviews can be done and submitted to GenSoftReviews. So you should feel these are not artificially created by "bots" whose job is to present a rosy picture of a product from a software developer.

You are still going to see many of the more well-known genealogy software products represented simply because they have the numbers as to users and reviewers. Yes, we are certainly more familiar with names of products such as Family Tree Maker, Roots Magic, Legacy Family Tree. I would suggest that we probably only think such high value names of products are the only ones simply because we have heard about them. It always amazes me how many more products exist that do the same thing of keeping our research all in a nice file.

I dare to challenge you about the 2017 winner Evidentia. Have you ever heard of the name before? I have not. Yet it is number one for 2017. If nothing else it intrigues me enough that I may very well check it out and see why it is so well rated. But I also know that we only use about 20-30% of the power of any genealogy

program and yet we may be very happy with what we have discovered of the program capability and incorporated its use into our data.

Even if we go beyond the number one program for 2017, have any of you heard of iFamily for the Mac, Famberry and Ancestris? I have heard on none of them. Yet, they were also rated 2nd, 3rd and 4th best for 2017.

It is the review process of GenSoftReviews that can create such a list of products we have not heard of before because they do reviews where we can gauge what the analysis was on what makes a product so good or bad. They are not marketers.

If you are a current user of a genealogy program such as Family Tree, Roots Magic, Legacy Family Tree (the more well-known ones) you may still want to check out and just see what is out there out of curiosity. I have personally been a user of a Mac program mentioned above called Reunion. I have used it for over 15 years and I love it. For me it offers all I want and I am sure there is more power in the program for me to learn.

Check out the site link above. Bookmark it. See all of the software that is out there that you never even knew existed.

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Handout #9 – “ONLINE FINDING AIDS REVEAL GENEALOGICAL GEMS”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the December/January 2018, Volume 12, Number 5 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that an interesting article in this issue is one titled “Online Finding Aids Reveal Genealogical Gems”. The author of the article is Diane L. Richard.

You can go to Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org to search through BILLIONS of records that have been indexed and are awaiting magical discovery by you with the right search term. Yes, you can still find material in these databases that are readily available as published material for you to browse through. Yes, you cannot search them with a surname but you can let your eyes do some browsing through the material if it may very well have a time and location to your own ancestors.

Do not forget that there is still much information that is sitting in manuscript and archival collection holdings that is not published and is just waiting to be discovered by you. Granted, you cannot enter a surname to just search it. Granted, there may be no name indexes for you to take a peek at for those elusive names you seek. But you could make some astonishing discoveries applicable to your own ancestors amongst such records.

The author notes that some of the kinds of 18th and 19th century records of interest to discover are:

- Ledgers (business, physician’s etc.)
- Petitions
- Treasurer’s and Comptrollers records
- Poor records
- Election records
- Red Cross membership rolls
- Stock marks

The author also notes some of the kinds of things to be discovered under the category of ledger records:

- Physician e.g. deaths in families
- Livery e.g. attending weddings, funerals
- Blacksmith e.g. purchases and services made
- Distillery and General Store e.g. connections to families, hired hands
- Hotel e.g. registered stays
- Insane Asylum e.g. linking patients to families

- Post Office e.g. based on subscriptions, you might learn religion, politics etc.
- Insurance Company e.g. business structures insured and individuals insured

Other type records in Manuscript and Archive Collections:

- Petitions for divorce, roads, mills, name changes etc.
- Poorhouse Records such as relationships between individuals, funeral information etc.
- Civil War records such as appeals for provisions for indigent families
- Red Cross records for women who were helping or men unable to serve in the military
- Private Correspondence that mentions various communities
- Business records taken home and then stayed with a family
- Service and Fraternal Clubs records might have death notices

The author also gave a nice long list on some websites that can help with discovering manuscript and archive collection material:

- **Select U.S. Federal Records**

- National Archives (NARA) at www.archives.gov/research
- Library of Congress (LOC) at www.loc.gov
- Smithsonian Institution Archives at <http://siarchives.si.edu>

- **Select Virginia Records (example of state repositories)**

- Library of Virginia at www.lva.virginia.gov
- Virginia Historical Society at www.vahistorical.org
- Germanna Foundation at <http://germanna.org>
- University of Virginia Library at www.library.virginia.edu
- Mariner's Museum Library at www.marinersmuseum.org/library
- Virginia Genealogical Society list of libraries. Special Collections, Archives and Repositories at www.vgs.org/research-aids/miscellaneous/ra-repositories#

- **Select Canadian Records**

- Library and Archives of Canada at www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Pages/home.aspx
- Archives of Ontario at www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/index.aspx
- Archives de Montreal at <http://archivesdemontreal.ica-atom.org>
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police at www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/genealogy-and-archival-research
- Canadian Council of Archives at www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/cain.html

Think about some of the kind of "obtuse" records you can find that are in an unpublished state existing only in archives and repositories. Yes they will be a challenge because you cannot online search them. But you might be able to find that something special on an ancestor that was a businessman who kept a ledger on purchases he made to stock his general store.

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Handout #10 – “HELLO, IS ANYBODY OUT THERE?”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the December/January 2018, Volume 12, Number 5 issue of Internet Genealogy.

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled “Hello! Is Anybody Out There?”. The author of the article is Dave Obee.

I like Dave’s little article because I know it has so much meaning to those of us that have submitted our DNA for genealogical testing.

His article begs the question on the rather high lack of response he has been noticing to the emails he has sent out to those that have some DNA connection to him. He sees it is not a question of even discussing the science or trying to figure out how the two might be related, but rather that his email hope for connection is simply going unanswered. He is just trying to figure out why this is even happening. His own experience seems to show that about 50% of his email inquiries are not responded to and he actually believes many others who knock on the email door of a DNA matched person are having even worse results.

Here is Dave’s own little unscientific survey that has given him some insights into why he has not often received return responses:

- o He discovered that one person had a life-changing event in which they now became the sole caretaker for their own mother. Caretaking has now become the most important part of this person’s life and genealogy and responding to DNA inquiries has fallen off the table.
- o For another case he discovered that he would never receive a response back from a particular person. The person died soon after submitting the test and consequently could not respond to the author’s requests to connect with him for some DNA and family history information exchanging.
- o The author also discovered was simply the high number of matches a particular person was experiencing versus the author’s relative low number of matches in comparison. Person “A” had almost 2,000 matches of 4th cousins or better where the author had 145. Sheer numbers of emails received by the person with 2,000 matches never allowed her to get to the level to make a timely response to the person with only 145.
- o The author also discovered that centimorgan measurements can mean a lot when match counts are high. A rating of a centimorgan level of 70 with person “A” may not even get onto the radar screen for that person to make a connection to an email request. Yet if person “B” has the 70 centimorgan rating as their highest they are excited at such a high match. Person “B” is not even noticing such a “low” match to their won matches that are even higher than that.

- o The author also noticed that a person did not respond because that person had not even gone into their DNA list to look at their matches after they submitted for testing. The author just contacted them directly using the email address rather than using it through the provider match list. The author discovered the emails originated through the DNA match list were going into the person's spam folder and were not even being looked in the spam folder.
- o Just the load level of an individual's email daily count can be reason enough not to respond. If you only get 5 emails per day it is hard not to notice you might have received one inquiring about DNA matches. If you receive 200 messages daily, perhaps the one about a DNA match does go unnoticed or is placed down the list of those with a priority response.

Here is my own reason for also not having responded to someone that I intended to respond. There is only so much screen real estate on your smartphone. I had a case where the message I received just kept going farther down my list and even scrolling down deeply into my Inbox was not enough to remember I had it and had not responded.

Oh well, guilty as charged!

Although Dave's story was specific to not receiving responses related to his DNA matches, I think you can apply it to any email response you seek from someone. Life can get in the way. Good intentions are supplanted by emergencies that come up and put everything to the bottom of the list. Your priority may not be the other person's priority.

So, grin and bear it. Try another polite reminder email. Just know there are legitimate reasons you may simply have received that email back in return. And then look at yourself in the mirror. I am sure you will remember the ones you did not respond to either!

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