HANDOUTS TABLE OF CONTENTS
April 10, 2018

April 10, 2018 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our April 10, 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.

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 MAY 5, 2018

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society will take place on Saturday morning May 5, 2018. The program for the morning is titled *"Who SANK Grandpa's Boat?: Effective Techniques for Finding Passenger Manifests"*. The speaker for the morning will be **Dan Niemiec**.

A lot of people cannot find the passenger list when their grandfather crossed the ocean. Some of those people believe the boat must have sunk and they swam the rest of the way! Dan Niemiec will help you understand that most of our ancestors did indeed come by boat and there are some tricky search methods that can help you find the passenger list.

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 APRIL 18, 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, April 18, 2018 between 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Refreshments are offered at 6:30pm.   The program scheduled for that evening is *"Oh Where, Oh Where Are My Ancestors From?"*. The speaker for the program will be **Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, CG**.

Finding your immigrant ancestor's town of origin is often considered the holy grail of genealogical research. With this piece of information, the family line can be extended across the ocean. Have you spent years searching for this elusive piece of information? This talk suggests many strategies that just might help you break down that brick wall. Highlights include:

- Basic information you should have for your ancestor
- More obscure information that might be available
- Branching out beyond your ancestor, to friends, family and associates
- Organizing and documenting your research

You may visit the society's web page at:

www.dcgs.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/

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGGNI) NEXT PROGRAM ON APRIL 21, 2018 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, April 21, 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 *"Preserve Your Ancestor's Legacy: Write Their Story"*. The speaker will be **Mike Karsen.**

In this unique presentation, Mike Karsen walks the audience through the process of preserving the memories of departed loved ones. Where genealogy meets family history, this presentation explores the elements of putting together an individual's life story. Framed against the backdrop of historical context, these elements begin with collecting the information and various formats and styles available to each author. These efforts result in written portraits of our ancestors that bring them back to life for future generations to know and cherish.

Mike Karsen, a professional speaker, is a member of the Association of Professional Genaalogists (APG), the Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG), and is Past President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois. He has presented over 300 talks on genealogy topics locally, nationally and internationally including Newberry Library and Sports Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership in Chicago. Mike is the author of "Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Chicagoland" and has published articles on genealogy.

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 MAY 8, 2018

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, May 8, 2018.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be **Thomas MacEntee (via "live" webinar)**. He will present a program titled "**How To Deal with Other Genealogists Without Going Crazy!**".

Guest presenter Thomas MacEntee will discuss the best ways to connect with other family historians and share resources including research, documents and research strategies, all via live webinar.

What happens when a "tech guy" with a love for history gets laid off during The Great Recession of 2008? You get, Thomas MacEntee. He was laid off after a 25-year career in the information technology field, so he started building his own genealogy-related business called High Definition Genealogy. He also created an online community of over 3,000 family history bloggers known as GeneaBloggers. His most recent endeavor, Hack Genealogy, is an attempt to "re-purpose today's technology for tomorrow's genealogy."

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 – HOW TO TRACE YOUR IRISH FAMILY HISTORY: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at <u>www.eogn.com</u> dated March 13, 2018.

<u>Dick Eastman</u> · <u>March 13, 2018</u> · <u>Genealogy Basics</u> · <u>4 Comments</u>

Irish genealogy expert John Grenham has published an excellent beginners' guide to Irish genealogy. If you are new to genealogy and are interested in tracing your Irish heritage, I suggest you first read his tutorial published in *The Irish Times* at: <u>http://bit.ly/2Fyjmdk.</u>

Comments by Tony Kierna

When you visit the website link above you will find a very nice resource on how to begin your Irish research. It is certainly not the full effect of reading an entire book on beginning your Irish research but it is certainly a great starting point to read a concise description of how to go about starting your Irish research.

Quoting from the online article right at the beginning the author states the following optimistic news for those who are just starting to do their Irish genealogical research:

"There has never been a better time to research Irish family history. A revolution in access to Irish genealogical records has taken place over the past decade. From being a laggard in providing online record transcripts, Ireland has become one of the world leaders."

It sounds like a beginning Irish researcher sure has a great chance of tapping into the large amount of transcribed records now that did not exist just a few years ago.

John Grenham does advocate the "golden rules" of beginning genealogical research. Rule #1, talk to your living relatives to obtain the stories they know before they are gone. How true that is. I see far too many researchers seeking my help for advice who immediately gravitate to the keyboard to begin searching only for the things they know. Rule #2, start with what you know about "you" and begin working your way back generation by generation with research. Do not make an immediate jump to begin searching records from another country because that is what you think is the truth.

John Grenham also notes that before the Civil Registers were started in 1864 a researcher must consider tapping into the variety of church records that exist to make discoveries of their ancestors. He also notes that online records are in abundance for doing your research. Sometimes the researcher should consider subscribing to Irish research databases because of the vastness of the holdings as well as the organization of the data that can allow quick searching producing bountiful data. Some of the online sites to consider as noted by John Grenham are:

4/2/2018

Cork Genealogical Society corkgenealogicalsociety.com

Clare Roots Society clareroots.org

Genealogical Society of Ireland familyhistory.ie

Huguenot Society of Great Britain & Ireland huguenotsinireland.com

Irish Family History Societyifhs.ie

Irish Genealogical Research Society irishancestors.ie

North of Ireland Family History Society nifhs.org

Ulster Historical and Genealogical Guild ancestryireland.com

Western Family History Association (Galway) wfha.info

Lackagh Parish Centre wfha.info/locations/lackagh-parish-centre

There is much more at John Grenham's online Beginner's Guide to Irish Genealogy. You can quickly go through it and be on your way to be a successful Irish genealogy researcher.

Our library also has a 2012 book in our collection authored by John Grenham on Irish Genealogy. It is well worth considering checking out this book to get even more depth of information on how to go about doing Irish genealogical research.   The book is titled "Tracing your Irish ancestors : the Complete Guide". The book is located on the 2nd floor of our library on the tall circulating shelves. The call number of the book is 929.1 GRENHAM, J.

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Handout #7 – TRACK THE HISTORY OF YOUR HOUSE WITH "HOUSESTRY"

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated March 14, 2018.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [March 14, 2018](#) · [Online Sites](#) · [One Comment](#)

Housestry is building a digital yearbook of sorts for properties across the world. According to the Housestry.com web site:

"A home is more than the walls and materials of which it's made. In its midst, meals are shared, boys and girls grow into young men and women and life chapters open and close. At housestry, we provide the venue where those experiences and memories live on.

"Share moments from your home's journey by creating an account and adding your photos and personal stories. Bring the past to life and show other users the history hiding behind the walls. Did you pour blood, sweat and tears into a remodel? Have you unearthed items hidden by previous owners? What events meant the most to you happened there. All of these things form the housestry of a home."

While there are a number of sites out there to keep tabs on an address, Housestry Founder Wayne Henry says the social component has been missing – the ability for a homeowner to share their personal stories, post pictures and connect with previous owners. "I kind of envision it to be the ancesty.com version of the history of homes," Henry says.

Housestry.com obviously is in its infancy. That is, there's not much information yet on the site. However, Housestry Founder Wayne Henry hopes to grow it into a major historical web site. You can see it as it grows at: http://housestry.com.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Somewhere and sometime in our genealogical research a physical home for ourselves or our parents or grandparents often comes into the research. We look at a census record and see an address of our grandparents back to 1900. Makes us wonder if the house/building is still there. What does it look like today? Does it look the same on the interior today as it did 80 years ago when your grandparents lived there? Sometimes you are lucky to have pictures from back then that shows the exterior of the house or some of the rooms on the inside. But for the most part your imagination is the only outlet for you to picture what it looked like back then. The stories of those ancestors, while living in that house, is what you would really like to discover.

Housestry seems to be planning for the future more so than being able to give you a picture of the past regarding the pictures of houses and those stories that were part of the house. When you look at the site you will not really find much data to see. It is a startup site and the success of it will come from those that participate to upload

information, pictures and stories of the home they are currently in so that future *generations can tap into those pictures and stories that you are creating today.* The site does have a list of some houses that are currently in the site. *Unfortunately, every time I tried to load one all that I saw was a Zillow-like* *description of the house.* You could see that in the bottom left of the browser it just kept loading and loading various sites for other pieces of information but I never saw the final component of what Housestry is trying to show. *I was disappointed* *because I have no idea what a sample of what a researcher can see ever appeared.* I tried a couple of different browsers (Firefox and Chrome) and still did not see any results. *Just saw the message at the bottom of the browser that said "connecting".*

It also looks like the site is operating with a scoring or points system for those that are participating in giving information to the site. Sort of like who has contributed the most to FindAGrave.

While this may be a great idea for the future, I think for now your interest in *previous homes where ancestors lived will have to be satisfied by connecting with* *cousins associated with those homes and discovering any stories or pictures they* *may have about said house.* Right now for me it just seems like a Zillow site for Real Estate that I can find out how many rooms in the house, how many bedrooms, when last sold, market value etc. I did not see any genealogical connection since nothing loaded for me to see.

Oh well, great idea but too early to tell where this is heading.

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Handout #8 – IMBUEAPP TURNS EVERY FAMILY HISTORY ITEM INTO A TIME CAPSULE

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated February 20, 2018.

Dick Eastman · February 20, 2018 · Software · One Comment

The following announcement was written by the folks at the Imbue Digital Corporation:

Save family memories with the Imbueapp. A free iOS app delivering trusted long-term storage for cherished family memories. Imbue uses machine learning to identify photos, antiques, heirlooms, etc. and turns them into time capsules for future generations.

VICTORIA, BC, Canada— February 10, 2018 – Innovator, Keith Wells, also the Founder of digital sports highlight distribution leader, SendtoNews Video Inc., is ready to unveil his latest project, the **Imbueapp:**

Using a smartphone camera image, **Imbueapp** captures your precious items and remembers them using machine learning from Google Cloud Vision API; you then add audio or video to the items, explaining where they came from, who they belonged to, and why they are special. Using cloud storage and the Google recognition software, the Imbueapp connects the two permanently so that future generations can identify your family treasures and the stories associated with them.

"Capturing the voices of parents and grandparents makes sense, because voices go silent unexpectedly." said founder Keith Wells.

The app is FREE to download. With a PAY FORWARD account, your memories are preserved in the cloud for a generation (25 years), so you can be certain the memories will live on.

What would you Imbue?

Download **Imbueapp** for iPhone here

Or go to **imbueapp.com**

"We don't own our family history. We simply preserve it for the next generation."
Rosemary Alva

Testimonials:

"What would you Imbue or wish your loved one had Imbued? I personally wish I could hear my mom telling me the stories behind some of the jewelry she left to me.*"*

"This is amazing. I wish I could hear my grandparents voice again*."*

"I am very bad at keeping track of material items and remembering their history. This would be perfect for me"

Keith has been on the cutting edge of digital and Internet technology and New Media since 1998, and used his extensive knowledge of newsroom workflow to support the growth of SendtoNews Video Inc., the #2 provider of digital sports highlights in the United States and #1 in Canada.

About the Imbueapp

Imbue Digital Corporation was founded in 2017 and is a startup dedicated to the trusted long-term storage of digital memories. Imbue is working with Machine Learning, AI, AR, cloud and blockchain to develop creative solutions for individuals and for industry. The company is founded by technology veterans and is headquartered in Victoria, British Columbia.

Family history is a 2-plus billion dollar industry that is expected to grow to nearly 3 billion by 2018.

We are attending Rootstech 2018 in Salt Lake City – Feb 28 – Mar 4. Booth number **#108B in the Innovation Alley**

Comments by Tony Kierna

This sounds like another great idea for you to take action now for the benefit of future generations. No better way than to take a picture of a family item that has some significance to that family. Then combine it with an audio/video description of the stories about that item and why it is important to the family and has value. The Imbue app is currently only for iPhone but the website for Imbue notes an Android version will be available in 2018.

We have all been there having items in our family history collections from parents, grandparents or maybe even further back. You have the item but unless you are lucky to have had an ancestor write some story about the article and why it has meaning and significance to have been passed down over and over through generations, you only have your imagination to make up your own story. This app attempts to solve that problem but only on a going forward basis for future generations. Thirty years from now your grandchild may be able to tap into Imbue,

see the article of note and hear you telling the story about that item and why it has meaning through family history. Great idea especially if you start using the idea of Imbue to share those items and stories with your family members today. It will also pay off down the road when all current family members are gone but the story will live on with the special object far into the future.

Call me cynical, but making payment today for something that will be around and available 25 years into the future is a concern for me. Startup companies creating "apps" are everywhere today. Just visit an "app" store and understand you are faced with searching through hundreds of thousands of apps and even millions of apps. Will Imbue be around in 25 years? Maybe? It sounds like a great idea but I am just not sure.

The Imbue website is pretty good at www.imbue.com. They do seem to have a very open and forthright site. They have an FAQ section that asks some interesting questions. They readily make their pricing schedule available. They have some very nice video tutorials and examples with stories on how Imbue works and why you should consider it. You can also find a blog at the Imbue website. Not much provided there and what is there looks like it comes from the company itself.

Just to give you an idea on pricing, the cost for 5 items you imbue is $17.99. That is a one-time charge good for 25 years. You could pick a price that gives you the ability to Imbue 99 items good for 25 years for $99.99. I think that most of us look at the price we pay today and we are probably not thinking much more than a few years down the road. So it might seem expensive today but you won't need to make any other payments for 25 years.

My hats off to Imbue. I think it is a great idea. The app is in the Apple App Store (that alone adds much legitimacy to the product for all the hoops they have to jump through just to get onto the store.). An Android version is coming. Pricing is openly stated. I just wish I could have seen a real example of a video recorded item with the accompanying audio story to get a flavor of it. I do not have the app on my phone. Perhaps, such an example is available to view through the app but not through the Imbue website.

Check out the Imbue website itself. See what you think.

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Handout #9 – "AT YOUR SERVICE: THE GENEROUS GENEALOGIST"

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the February/March 2018, Volume 12, Number 6 issue of <u>Internet Genealogy</u>.

* *

==I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled "At Your Service: The Generous Genealogist". The author of the article is Sue Lisk.==

==The author suggests that there are five ways in which you might consider assisting other family historians.== These are:

- **==Mentor Other Genealogists==**
  - Not necessarily the same as teaching.
  - ==Be willing to offer advice to someone or to orient someone who may have no idea where to turn==.
  - You should stress to other genealogists to be adaptive to new situations and not to expect familiar research techniques to work all the time.
  - ==Share stories that inspire and encourage==.
  - ==Motivate others== to find creative ways to solve challenging problems.
  - ==Offer words of praise== to who you are mentoring.

- **==Index or Transcribe Records==**
  - Create a free account with FamilySearch.
  - Click on the Indexing Tab at the top of the page.
  - Take a guided tour of the process.
  - Read "Basic Indexing Guidelines".
  - ==Choose the project you would like to work on. Choose a project applicable to your own language skills==. Don't pick a project on Polish records if you do not have a familiarity with the language.
  - Your handwriting interpretations skills will increase over time

- **==Pursue a Pet Project==**
  - If you love photography perhaps you would be interested in working on photographic collections. You can help to identify, organize, preserve and share the material.
  - ==Search out the actual area where your ancestors lived and try to capture a sense of the place back to that time==.
  - If you like history you may decide to study old schoolhouses in a rural area where your ancestors lived. You could write about

these discoveries. All of the details of your research could be written up and shared.

- o Maybe you are a wonderful communicator as well as an expert in a region where your ancestors lived. Maybe you could offer informal tours to other relatives visiting the area.

- **Contribute to Find A Grave**
  - o Consider visiting local cemeteries that perhaps have not been widely incorporated into Find A Grave.
  - o A new section of Find A Grave now allows you to transcribe gravestones via photos that other members have uploaded.
  - o GPS information can also be included within the newly remodeled Find A Grave website.
  - o You can add biographical information about the person in the grave if you feel you have accurate information and are not speculating.

- **Share Your Stories**
  - o Don't let those discovered stories die away. You were able to capture the stories pertaining to your research. Share them, via any online tree you may already have created.
  - o If you write about one of your ancestors and the stories associated with them, give a copy of your write-up to a local archives or historical society or genealogical society.
  - o Consider starting your own blog where these discovered stories can be shared.

The article also provides a nice list of 10 items that are associated with being a good mentor. Here is that list:

- Offer assistance only when asked; no one appreciates a know-it-all.
- Provide guidance in their areas of expertise.
- Direct others to potentially useful sources, especially ones available at no cost, when possible.
- Emphasize the importance of being flexible and open-minded when approaching unfamiliar situations.
- Inspire others to learn and find solutions on their own.
- Act as sounding boards, while withholding judgement.
- Suggest original ways of approaching difficult puzzles.
- Promote responsible genealogical practices.
- Encourage those they help to share their findings.
- Share the joy of discovery!

These are some great points.

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Handout #10 – "10 DATABASES YOU DIDN'T KNOW WERE ON ANCESTRY.COM"

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the February/March 2018, Volume 12, Number 6 issue of Internet Genealogy.

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I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled "10 Databases You Didn't Know Were on Ancestry.com". The author of the article is Gena Philbert-Ortega.

The author notes that we are all probably familiar with the key records on Ancestry.com such as Census records, City Directory records and many others. What about the gems that are there that you may not have run into because searching for ancestors did not discover one in those databases? Maybe worse, maybe you only do a global search across the tens of thousands of databases within Ancestry.com and don't even … or care … about all the individual databases. I am a big believer in at least being aware of some of these databases and doing searching only within these databases.

But how do you discover the hidden gems databases at Ancestry.com?

The author suggests a couple of ways to search. First, from the Ancestry.com homepage, click on the word "Search" found at the top black toolbar. Hover over it and see the list of selectable items. The author suggests selecting "All Collections". This will take you to a Search page which includes:

- A Search Engine
- Links to Special Collections
- A hyperlinked list of your recently viewed collections
- A map (if you click on a state/province or country you will be taken to a page with a list of all the databases for that place.)

The author also suggests the other place to explore is the "Card Catalog" under the "Search" tab at the top of the Ancestry homepage. The Card Catalog is searchable by title or keyword. The title search is great if you know the exact title of the database. If you do not know the exact name of the database, then use the Keyword field. This allows you to search by a word that might describe the database. The author cautions that this search can be finicky and will not distinguish between "postcard" and "postcards". So, there may be a database with the word "postcard" but if you use "postcards" you will not receive a hit back.

The author encourages using the above two resources under the search tab to discover new individual databases that you may not be familiar with.

The author does provide a list of the databases that are her favorites to search individually and limit the number of "hits" you receive so you can better analyze the

smaller number of results rather than have them included in a results list of thousands when you do a global search.

Here are the author's list of her favorites:

- *Biography & Genealogy Master Index (BGMI) @* http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=4394
    - o An index of biographical works from the 19th and 20th centuries.
    - o It is an index so very little information is provided.
    - o Capture the bibliographic information and use digitized books websites to make the full discoveries.
- *U.S. Historical Postcards @* http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8705
    - o You can find 115,000 postcards in this database.
    - o Search by keyword (school, church, etc.) or a location.
- *Library of Congress Photo Collection @* http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1028
    - o You can find 340,000 public domain photographs and prints.
    - o Because they are in the public domain you can use them for your own family history book or website.
    - o Search the collection by keyword such as place an ancestor lived.
- *Historic Catalogs of Sears, Roebuck and Co., 1896-1993 @* http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1670
    - o Department store catalogs were important for our ancestors. It was the Amazon.com of the day for them before the internet.
    - o Great reference tool for looking up a family heirloom you may have discovered.
    - o Great to learn what our ancestors were using and buying during their time period.
- *Historical Newspapers. Births, Marriage, & Death Announcements, 1851-2003 @* http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=50000
    - o Great idea to search an index first to find the ancestor of interest and then use the details to find it in the actual newspaper.
    - o Some newspapers in the database are:
        - ▪ New York Times (1851-2003)
        - ▪ Chicago Tribune (1850-1985)
        - ▪ Washington Post (1877-1990)
- *U.S. Craftperson Files, 1600-1995 @* http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=9063
    - o Includes women and their occupations

- o Information on the cards includes:
  - Name of the person
  - Occupation
  - Working dates
  - Birth and Death dates
  - Where they lived
  - What they made
  - Notes about their professional lives

- *U.S. IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918* @
  http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1264
  - o Lists the value, assessment or enumeration of taxable income or items and the amount of tax due.
  - o Not all state are covered and some that are covered may only be for 1 year and not the full range of years in the title of the material.

- *Associate Press, Name Card Index to AP Stories, 1905-1990* @
  http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=50018
  - o You may have had an ancestor named in a newspaper article that was carried by the Associated Press that can be discovered here for the timeframe covered.

- *U.S. School Catalogs, 1765-1935* @
  http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2203
  - o Covers 43 states
  - o Includes the names of faculty, students and others
  - o Information is from catalogs, obituary records, class histories, speeches, class reports, registers and other sources.

- *U.S. Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963* @
  http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2375
  - o Can discover military information about an ancestor via the application record.
  - o Signatures of family members who submitted the application can be discovered.

Don't just immediately start searching Ancestry.com across the vastness of all of the databases. Take some time to discover individual databases by type of database, place, and any other creative term that might apply to your ancestors. Find the individual database and then search only within that database to peruse through meaningful and manageable hits to make discoveries quicker and easier.

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