



HANDOUTS TABLE OF CONTENTS
May 8, 2018

[Handout Introduction](#) Page 2

[Schaumburg Township District Library \(STDL\) Genealogy Blog](#) Page 4

[Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society \(NWSGS\)
Program for August 25, 2018](#) Page 5

[DuPage County Genealogical Society \(DCGS\)
Program for May 16, 2018](#) Page 6

[Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois \(CAGGNI\)
Program for May 19, 2018](#) Page 7

[Schaumburg Township District Library \(STDL\)
June 12, 2018 Genealogy Program](#) Page 8

[Illinois State Genealogical Society Offers Bicentennial Certificate](#) Page 10

["Long Lost Family" Season 3 On Cable Channel TLC](#) Page 13

[2020 U.S. Census To Ask Same-Sex Question](#) Page 16

["If I Could Change One Thing in Genealogy ..."](#) Page 20

["Hints from Houdini"](#) Page 22

May 8, 2018 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our May 8, 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"!

++++
++++

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!

++++
++++

Handout #2 – NEXT MEETING OF THE NORTHWEST SUBURBAN GENEALOGY SOCIETY WILL BE ON AUGUST 25, 2018 (?)

THE SOCIETY WILL NOT BE MEETING DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY 2018. THEY WILL RE-GATHER AGAIN ON A STILL UNDETERMINED DAY POSSIBLY AT THE END OF AUGUST 2018 (POSSIBLY AUGUST 25, 2018) INSTEAD OF A SEPTEMBER PROGRAM THAT WOULD CONFLICT WITH LABOR DAY.

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society will take place on Saturday morning August 25, 2018 (?). The program for the morning is titled "**To Be Determined**". The speaker for the morning will be **To Be Determined**.

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.

++++
++++

**Handout #3 – DUPAGE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEXT
REGULAR SOCIETY PROGRAM ON MAY 16, 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, May 16, 2018 between 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Refreshments are offered at 6:30pm. The program scheduled for that evening is "*What's NEW on the Internet for Genealogists?*". The speaker for the program will be **Caron Primas Brennan**.

There are new genealogy sites on the Internet every day. This fast-paced presentation is a review of popular, new, little known, and perhaps unusual genealogy resources on the internet to help you in 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/>

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.

++++
++++

Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGGNI) NEXT PROGRAM ON MAY 19, 2018 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, May 19, 2018 at the NIU Conference Center, 5555 Trillium Blvd., Hoffman Estates, IL between 10:30am to 12:30pm. The program scheduled for this day is "***Gone But Not Forgotten***". The speaker will be **Bob Allen**.

Over the years people have "touched" me and probably you. They have entertained, educated, inspired and influenced us in many ways. In their remembrance, we will share information about their lives, watch and listen to videos about them, explore their ancestors via various genealogical sources and sometimes surprise people to whom they are related and identify places on the internet to learn more about them.

Bob Allen received a B.A. in political science and an MBA from the University of Kansas. He then graduated from the University of Texas Law School in Austin. He held executive positions with Container Corporation of America and Baxter Healthcare. Bob lives in Barrington with his wife, Audrey. They have 4 children and 5 grandchildren. He currently serves as treasurer of CAGGNI. Bob has been conducting genealogical research for 30+ years.

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.

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.

++++
++++

Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON JUNE 12, 2018

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, June 12, 2018.

We will have another “break-out” session for our gathering on June 12, 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 June 12, 2018.

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.

++++
++++

Handout #6 – ILLINOIS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OFFERS A BICENTENNIAL FAMILY CERTIFICATE

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

[Dick Eastman](#) · [April 3, 2018](#) · [Societies](#) · [One Comment](#)

The following announcement was written by the Illinois State Genealogical Society:



ISGS is celebrating Illinois Bicentennial this year by offering a special certificate: Bicentennial Family Certificate. This will only be available in 2018! Thank you for spreading the word. Full press release below.

SPRINGFIELD, IL, March 30 , 2018 – The Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS) announces the introduction of the Illinois Bicentennial Family Certificate program, an official project of the Illinois Bicentennial celebration.

Available only during the Bicentennial year, the Illinois State Genealogical Society will issue Illinois Bicentennial Family Certificates to honor those who contributed to our state's rich history to direct descendants of early pioneers who were living in Illinois in the year of Statehood (1818) and whose family has continued to be proud residents of our State for each generation since that time, with the applicant being a current resident of Illinois.

The Illinois Bicentennial Family Certificate program supports part of the Society's purpose:

- To stimulate an interest in the people who contributed to the establishment and development of the State of Illinois.
- To seek, preserve, and make available all information pertaining to individuals, families, and groups who lived in Illinois, recognizing the events that affected them.
- To inform people of the value of and the need for preserving family and local history for future generations.

Honor your Illinois ancestors and apply today. Visit the ISGS website at www.ilgensoc.org for more information, including the application and fees. Applications must be submitted to the Society by December 31, 2018.

About the Illinois State Genealogical Society: ISGS was founded in 1968 to stimulate a public interest in the people and families that contributed to the establishment and

development of the State of Illinois. ISGS is a not-for-profit, nonsectarian, educational organization.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Yes, the state of Illinois is celebrating its 200 year old birthday in 2018. Back in 1818, Illinois became a state within the United States, carved out initially as a Territory in the Northwest Territory.

The Illinois State Genealogical Society is celebrating this special anniversary by offering a unique recognition as it applies to family history. This recognition will only be available during the year 2018.

The recognition given by the Illinois State Genealogical Society applies to those researchers that can show proof of their ancestors living in the now state of Illinois in 1818 or prior to that year. Perhaps your own accomplished research may already show that your ancestors were living in the state of Illinois in 1818 or earlier. If so, it looks like you have it made. Be aware, there is a processing fee associated with obtaining this special certificate. You basically have to state the name of the DIRECT answer in your family line and in what county they were living in 1818.

Here are some of the other "rules" you will need to follow that I saw on the actual application document you will use from the Illinois State Genealogical Society website:

Eligibility:

The applicant must be directly descended from an individual who was living in Illinois during the specified period. A direct relationship is through bloodline (e.g., the "child of a child"). An indirect relationship (through a sibling, uncle, aunt, or cousin) does not qualify.

Availability:

*The Bicentennial Family Certificate is only available during the Bicentennial year
– 3 December 2017 to 31 December 2018.*

Fees:

The fee for each application is \$30.00. One certificate is included in the fee, and will be mailed after eligibility has been verified. Application fees are nonrefundable.

Additional Certificates:

Immediate relatives (parents, siblings, children, or grandchildren) of the applicant who wish to apply must submit a separate complete application and fees.

Permission Release:

I hereby give permission to the Illinois State Genealogical Society to include and/or reproduce the following submitted lineage information in any of its publications, microfilm, digitization, website database projects, or unknown future technologies.

Remember, the key is to show direct lineage relationship. Plus, you have to be yourself a current resident within the state of Illinois. It does appear that with some basic follow-up research the Illinois State Genealogical Society will verify your claim as best as possible. You might even want to include a basic pedigree chart with your submission as well as some other researched proof on your part showing that your ancestor was living in the now state of Illinois back in 1818 or earlier.

Sounds like a great way to honor your ancestors. I know I do not have any ancestors that fit the certificate requirements. Mine were still engaged in survival in Poland in 1818!

++++
++++

Handout #7 – “LONG LOST FAMILY” SEASON 3 PREMIER ON CABLE CHANNEL TLC

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated April 5, 2018.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [April 5, 2018](#) · [Video & Television](#) · [4 Comments](#)



"Long Lost Family" is an American documentary television series. The show helps provide aid to individuals looking to be reunited with long-lost biological family members. The series has been renewed for a third season that is set to premiere on April 8, 2018.

The show is produced by [Shed Media](#), the same company that produces the American version of "Who Do You Think You Are?" The series is co-sponsored by [Ancestry.com](#), which provides family history research and DNA testing to help make discoveries possible. The television series is based on the original British program that began airing in 2011 and has so far distributed 7 seasons. An Australian version was broadcast for one season but then was canceled.

Quoting from TLC's web site:

"Long Lost Family features the highly emotional and touching stories of people who have suffered a lifetime of separation and are yearning to be reunited with their birth parents or biological families.

Hosts Chris Jacobs and Lisa Joyner are both adoptees who have embarked on their own journeys to discover their biological families. Each episode follows the hosts as they investigate the stories of two individuals or families who have longed to resolve their lifelong searches.

"Over the course of the series, we meet sisters desperate to trace their father who suddenly and mysteriously abandoned them when they were just 4 and 5 years old; a mother who as a teenager was pressured to relinquish her baby and has never recovered from the trauma; and a woman whose life was turned upside down when she suddenly discovered the man who raised her wasn't actually her father."

"The stakes are high: a successful investigation offers the promise of not just a heartwarming reunion but also a chance of redemption for people who have wrestled with emotional agony for years."

"There is no simple path to find the missing loved ones. With tightly held family secrets in their way, the searchers have odds stacked against them. Lisa and Chris

conduct painstaking searches through public records and utilize the latest DNA technology in their hunt for answers. But what they discover, and who they find, is anything but expected."

You can learn more about "Long Lost Family" at <http://bit.ly/2Gz9nF7>.

Check your local television listings for the time that the TLC network will broadcast "Long Lost Family" in your area on April 8.

Comments by Tony Kierna

By the time you read this update, the show will already have been on for about a month. Once again, TLC cable channel is presenting material that can certainly be of interest to those who appreciate family history research. The show title is "Long Lost Family". The show is produced by the same company (Shed Media) that brings you "Who Do You Think You Are?", another family history research show that has its roots many years back having originally premiered on NBC. Most of us may be more familiar with "Who Do You Think You Are?" but this show is family history related but in a different way.

While "Who Do You Think You Are?" focuses on highlighting a celebrity and their quest to uncover their family lineage backwards in time via historical documents showing that connection, this show "Long Lost Family" actually focuses on non-celebrities trying to discover living family members. The premise of the show is that the one seeking family has been separated from biological family perhaps at birth through being put up for adoption or just abandoned. The search may be for one biological parent and not both, or a sister or a brother. But their search is to find those biologically connected to them that are living today. And it can be for children looking for parents as well as parents looking for children.

Researching records is critically important as is the use of DNA. DNA can be helpful only if the family member being sought has in some way contributed DNA to the many services that genealogical researchers use such as Ancestry DNA, Family Tree DNA, 23 and Me etc. So once again, do not take submission of DNA lightly as strange, unexpected and life-changing events could unfurl from your DNA being out there in the public world. We may not think there was any life event that could disrupt our lives, but lies, deceit and cover-ups are often chosen rather than honesty.

Here is a link to the TLC part of their website dedicated to this show <https://www.tlc.com/tv-shows/long-lost-family/>. In order to watch any online episodes you will need to sign-in with your cable account. Once provided you can then watch the hour long shows that are online. Currently, there are 4 episodes from the 2018 series of new shows. If you already have a cable subscription, you can bypass the online access at TLC and just watch "on-demand" the shows the cable company makes available for viewing through them.

Be prepared for some emotional discoveries. Have that handy box of tissues near by!

"Long Lost Family" premiered shows appear on TLC cable station. New shows air on Sunday evenings at 9 PM (central time).

++++
++++

Handout #8 – 2020 U.S. CENSUS TO ASK QUESTION ON SAME-SEX COUPLES

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated April 13, 2018.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [April 13, 2018](#) · [Announcements](#), [Legal Affairs](#) · [8 Comments](#)

The following was written by D'vera Cohn of the [Pew Research Center](#):

A [new question about citizenship](#) on the 2020 census form is in the headlines these days, but the U.S. Census Bureau also plans other changes for the next national count. Among them: For the first time, the agency will add specific check boxes for same-sex couples to identify themselves, and it will ask people who check the white or black race boxes to say more about their national origins.

The bureau's [list of 2020 questions](#), sent to Congress for review late last month, also was notable for what it did not include. Despite [years of research](#) into possible benefits of combining the race and Hispanic questions on the form, the bureau will continue to ask them separately. Bureau researchers had said the combined question produced more complete and accurate data, especially about Hispanics. The census form also will not include a [much-researched](#) check box for people of [Middle Eastern or North African origins](#).

The 2020 census is to ask seven data questions: age, sex, Hispanic origin, race, relationship status, homeownership status (own or rent) and citizenship. The bureau also listed several follow-up questions it will ask to make sure that everyone who usually lives in the household being surveyed is included.

The citizenship question, which has been [challenged in court](#), will be asked last to "minimize any impact on decennial census response rates," according to a [memo from Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross](#), whose department oversees the Census Bureau.

Census has overcounted same-sex couples

The new check boxes for same-sex couples are an attempt to fix a long-standing problem of [Census Bureau overcounts](#) of these couples.

Currently, the bureau produces a count of same-sex couples by using people's answers to two questions – one about respondents' sex and another about how each person in the household is related to the person who filled out the questionnaire. To date, the options for answering the relationship question have included "husband or wife," "unmarried partner" (this "unmarried partner" category was added to the census in 1990) and more than a dozen other categories. If, for example, the person who filled out the census form was male, and another man in the same household said he was that person's "husband or wife," they were counted as a same-sex married couple. But [Census Bureau research](#) found that the majority of same-sex married couples counted in the 2010 census and the 2010 American Community Survey were recorded as opposite-sex couples in Social Security files.

For 2020, the census form will include separate categories for “opposite-sex” and “same-sex” spouses and unmarried partners. The new wording is meant to be an [additional backstop against misreporting](#). If people give inconsistent answers to the relationship and gender questions when responding online, a question will pop up alerting the respondent of the discrepancy. If there is an inconsistency on a written questionnaire, the bureau will have the option to change an answer.

How is this person related to Person 1? Mark ONE box.

<input type="checkbox"/> Opposite-sex husband/wife/spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Father or mother
<input type="checkbox"/> Opposite-sex unmarried partner	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandchild
<input type="checkbox"/> Same-sex husband/wife/spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent-in-law
<input type="checkbox"/> Same-sex unmarried partner	<input type="checkbox"/> Son-in-law or daughter-in-law
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological son or daughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Other relative
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted son or daughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Roommate or housemate
<input type="checkbox"/> Stepson or stepdaughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Foster child
<input type="checkbox"/> Brother or sister	<input type="checkbox"/> Other nonrelative

There is growing demand for good data about same-sex couples. Same-sex marriage is not tracked consistently by all states, and some couples marry abroad. [More broadly, the rise in same-sex partnerships has fueled demand for more data on these couples](#). Among the uses for the data are to study the well-being of children in different types of living arrangements and to forecast demand for benefits based on marital status.

The four categories for opposite- and same-sex spouses and opposite- and same-sex unmarried partners are among 16 categories to be offered as answers to the relationship question, two more than in the [2010 census](#). The form also will bring back the “foster child” category that was dropped for reasons of space in 2010. The 2020 form is to drop the “roomer or boarder” category that has been on the [census form for more than a century](#) but is a [far less common arrangement](#) than it used to be.

Questionnaire will ask for details on racial ancestry

What is this person's race?
Mark one or more boxes AND print origins.

White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Latvian, Egyptian, etc.

Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.

American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal ancestry, for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfoot Tribe, Hopi, Aztec, Navajo Village of San Juan, Traditional Government, Akim Community, etc.

Chinese Vietnamese Native Hawaiian

Filipino Korean Samoan

Asian Indian Japanese Chamorro

Other Asian – Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc.

Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.

Some other race – Print race or origin.

The 2020 census form will use [similar questions on race and ethnicity](#) as in 2010, first asking whether someone is Hispanic or not, then asking that person's racial category. The bureau studied [combining the two questions](#), and researchers said that it produced generally better data for Hispanics, many of whom have avoided answering the race question in the past.

But the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, which oversees how data about race and ethnicity are collected on federal forms, did not act on the Census Bureau's suggested changes in question categories, so the agency will stick with the [two-question format](#).

Bureau researchers had also recommended adding a new racial or ethnic category for people of Middle Eastern or North African descent, who now generally are counted as white. But the head of the bureau's population division, Karen Battle, said the bureau [needs to do more research](#) on the option, because there is debate as to whether the category would be counted as a race or an ethnicity.

The 2020 census questionnaire will ask white and black respondents for the first time to write in detail about their national origins. The question will supply examples of the most commonly used answers, such as "German" and "Lebanese" under "white" and "Jamaican" or "Somali" under black." (About half of white and black respondents have supplied additional detail in tests of this option, according to census officials.)

Another change from past censuses is that the question about race also will [drop the word "Negro,"](#) so the category will be "Black or African Am." Census Bureau research found that many people found it offensive. The word ["Negro" was added in 1900](#) on census forms to replace "colored," one of many changes in racial terminology since the first census in 1790.

Comments by Tony Kierna

The 2020 U.S. Federal census is not that far away. Each 10 year census is different than the previous one in its own right. Questions are added, questions are removed. Most questions are just matter-of-fact. However, the 2020 upcoming census does appear to be creating controversy already. So buckle up 2 years in advance of the actual census while you start hearing more and more about this "controversy".

So, when asked in 2020 to answer census questions expect to see one on "same-sex" couples and also one on "racial ancestry". Apparently, over the years the Census Bureau has tried to imply same-sex relationships by looking at a variety of other census resources but they feel it has been inaccurate. Same with "racial identity", they have used combinations of other responses to come up with their own version of racial identity statistics. It seems it has been more problematic for Hispanics to provide a racial identity response to how the Census Bureau has provided previous questions.

As researchers, think of it this way. In 2020 you will be given these questions on the Census questionnaire. Maybe the questions are controversial to us or maybe not. But they are to someone who is probably thinking does it matter how I answer the controversial questions because no one will care today or 100 years out into the future. Our own research always hoped that census information provided by our ancestors was true and accurate to the best degree possible. OK, we have seen great-great grandmother Mary get younger with each census response. Well, no one is immune from telling a "white-lie" every now and then. Who is going to notice the difference? Well, great-great-grandmother Mary your great-great-grandson noticed the discrepancies you provided because he is such a good family history researcher!

Also remember, under today's census data release laws, the 2020 Census will not be released to the public for 72 years or in this case not until 2092. WOW that is a long, long time down the road for us! Maybe for the general public but it is an eternity for researchers who would like to see it immediately after the census is completed in 2020.

At least you will have a "heads-up" on what may be considered controversial questions. As a researcher who has looked at countless census results over the years and has seen plenty of discrepancies, I leave it up to you to judge the questions for 2020 and what you are going to do with them. Maybe as family historians the idea of "controversial" does not quite hit home very hard because we know that honest responses to questions gives us a better, truer picture of who an answer is. So while controversial questions for 2020 may exist, I know I will not be around in 2092 to try to figure out the responses and wonder why great-great-great-great-grandmother Mary said what she said in the 2020 when other evidence from other research avenues makes it look like she was stretching the truth to say the least.

+++++

Handout #9 – “IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING IN GENEALOGY ...”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the March/April 2018, Volume 4, Number 1 issue of Your Genealogy Today.

I thought an interesting article in this issue is one titled “If I Could Change One Thing in Genealogy ...”. The author of the article is Donna Potter Phillips.

This article hit home with me personally. I think it may also hit home with many of you. Do you have more than enough books in your home that find a home on some version of a bookshelf? Probably! How about the plural ... bookshelves? Still more? How about a bookcase? How about the plural bookcases? Are you a bookaholic? Have you read all of those books collecting dust on those shelves? Probably not. Sounded good at the time of purchase or addition to your collection.

Do you continue to add to your books with each attendance at a genealogy conference? Probably!

And think of me with my own personal book problem that I combine with being a librarian surrounded by ... more books! You know it is bad for me when it is hard to walk by our book bin withdrawal area. Oh it hurts to see that a book was removed. Then I have to tell myself it is a good thing. We want books that are accurate and current with information. We are not an archive. We are a public library that focuses on currency of material and high and fast turnover of material!

So if you might fit into the crowd of being an over-zealous book collector then read this article. The author (tongue-in-cheek) offers 10 reasons why genealogists should refrain from buying any more books until they read those they have:

Rule #1 – If one book is good, two are always better.

It is far better to buy one good reference book than to buy several and have them grow old on your shelf.

Rule #2 – The more expensive book is not always the best choice.

Make the wisest choice not a “checkbook choice”.

Rule #3 – Pictures are necessary.

Not necessarily. Charts and graphs will work quite as well. Only some pictures are worth a thousand words.

Rule #4 – Do not buy a college level book when a kindergarten book will do.

If you are just beginning to learn the topic, choose a simpler, overview book.

Rule #5 – Do not buy a book just because the vendor is pushing it.

Book sellers are just that ... book sellers! Be choosy.

Rule #6 – If you need a book on Virginia, do not buy one on Alaska, too, just because they are selling 2-for-1.

Kick your discipline in at this time. Maybe Alaska will come into play down the road but get it down the road and not now.

Rule #7 – Set your budget before you approach a vendor.

Consider bringing only so much money for any purchase. Discipline and budget.

Rule #8 – Constant browsing feeds the addiction.

Make one visit to the vendor of books then stay away. Visit with other genealogists. Go shopping for books only in leap years!

Rule #9 – Wear a button that says, "Help Me! I'm a Compulsive Book Buyer!"

Your friends will giggle. They will flock around you. Perhaps they will buy the book of interest to you. Then you can borrow it from them!

Rule #10 – Make no more bookshelves in your home!

Sure, no more bookshelves. But think of those hidden areas in closets and under beds. Who needs shelves!

If the rules above are not helpful, then at least create your own new rule that you will henceforth READ and USE every one of your new book purchases. All the good information in books will not do one good helpful thing for your genealogy research unless you actually read the material!

OK. A fun little article that is not incredibly rich in genealogical information to advance your skills, but these kind of articles are needed every now and then to just put a smile on your face.

++++
++++

Handout #10 – “HINTS FROM HOUDINI”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the March/April 2018, Volume 4, Number 1 issue of Your Genealogy Today.

I thought that another good article in this issue is one titled “Hints from Houdini”. The author of the article is Sue Lisk.

She offers some ideas to improve your genealogy research efforts based on some Harry Houdini insights related to his escape stunts. Here they are:

- **Create Your Own “Tricks”**

- Harry Houdini did not just copy stunts from others. He created his own.
- Be sure the techniques you use to research are based on well-established principles of genealogical research.
- Hunches can be good but you still have to have documented trail of how you arrived at it.
- Consider the context and time period of your ancestors to inspire you to look for clues in unusual places.
- Your approaches are likely to be less risky than those of Harry Houdini.

- **Believe in Yourself**

- Harry Houdini had immense confidence in his abilities to escape from unbelievable situations.
- There is no one “correct” way to do genealogy research.
- With experience you will learn new techniques to overcome research challenges.
- Be persistent but yet remain open to the advice of others.
- Know when to turn to an expert source rather than repeating the same research effort over and over without success.

- **Focus on the Women**

- Houdini always felt closeness to his mother.
- Don’t overlook the women in your research trees.
- Men may be easier to trace in censuses but look at the women in the census and look for their families that may be nearby.
- Look at the names of godparents and sponsors for life events. These female sponsors reveal other family connections you are unaware of.

- **Disprove Questionable Claims**

- Houdini set out to prove that spiritualists were frauds. From his own escape capabilities he knew where fraud could be perpetrated.
- When you find a claim in a family tree that seems suspect, set out to prove it one way or another. Are sources cited? Is there anything illogical about the assumptions behind the research?
- If you discover inaccuracies, politely approach the owners of the tree to present your evidence to counter their original research.
- If you meet with resistance from other owners of trees with incorrect information, then at least record the correct information in your own tree.

• **Be Prepared For The Unexpected**

- Houdini could always take a punch into the stomach by tightening up all his muscles. Unfortunately, one day someone did that by surprise and it is assumed that may have led to a ruptured appendix which led to Houdini's death.
- Always expect surprises in your research.
- Maybe you believe your great-grandfather never left home because he always appeared in each 10 year census. Perhaps, you discover someone of the same name in an area outside of his normal location. It could very well be your person that returns in time for the next census making you have to think that your story he stayed in his local area all the time incorrect.
- Solid, detailed research will help you determine when you struck gold or have been duped.

++++
++++