



Scan either of the above Quick Response (QR) codes with your QR code smartphone reader and you will be taken to the genealogy blog I author for the library titled "Tony's Genealogy Blog at the Schaumburg Township District Library".

HANDOUTS TABLE OF CONTENTS February 12, 2019

<u>Handout Introduction</u>	Page 2
<u>Schaumburg Township District Library (STDL) Genealogy Blog</u>	Page 4
<u>Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society (NWSGS) Program for March 2, 2019</u>	Page 5
<u>DuPage County Genealogical Society (DCGS) Program for February 20, 2019</u>	Page 6
<u>Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois (CAGGNI) Program for February 16, 2019</u>	Page 7
<u>Schaumburg Township District Library (STDL) March 12, 2019 Genealogy Program</u>	Page 8
<u>What's Coming from FamilySearch in 2019</u>	Page 10
<u>Bill Filed in Texas to Place 125 Year Embargo on Birth Records</u>	Page 14
<u>FamilySearch's Top Record Collections for 2018</u>	Page 16
<u>"Frozen: Coping with Research Paralysis"</u>	Page 19
<u>"Contours in the Clouds"</u>	Page 21

February 12, 2019 Schaumburg Township District Library Genealogy Program "Handouts"

Hi Everyone,

This document should be considered as the program "handouts" document for our February 12, 2019 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 2, 2019

The next meeting of the Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society will take place on Saturday morning March 2, 2019. The program for the morning is titled **“Pinning Together Your Genealogy Past with Pinterest”**. The speaker for the morning will be **Debra Dudek**.

This meeting will take place at the Arlington Heights Senior Center, 1801 W. Central Road, 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 20, 2019**

Please note that meetings that will take place for the society will occur between September 2018 and May 2019. The September 2018 program will occur at the DuPage County Historical Museum located at 102 E. Wesley Street in Wheaton, IL. The October 2018 through May 2019 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 20, 2019 between 7:00pm to 8:30pm at the Wheaton Public Library. Refreshments are offered at 6:30pm. The program scheduled for that evening is "Planning An Ancestral Trip". The speaker for the program will be Terri O'Connell.

Planning an Ancestral Trip can take a lot of time. This lecture will touch on how you will know the time is right, as well as places you should add to your list, and if / when you should involve a travel agent.

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.

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Handout #4 – COMPUTER ASSISTED GENEALOGY GROUP OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS (CAGGNI) NEXT PROGRAM ON FEBRUARY 16, 2019 AT THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY

The next regular meeting of CAGGNI will take place on Saturday morning, February 16, 2019 at the Schaumburg Township District Library between 10:30am to 12:30pm. The program scheduled for this day is "***Pandemic 1918: Fighting Influenza During the Great War***". The speaker will be **Tina Beard**.

More than thirty percent of Americans were estimated to have contracted the Spanish Influenza in 1918 and millions of people lost their lives. Explore the timeline of the outbreak and hear tales of how the U.S. Army, Navy and civilian population centers tried desperately to combat the disease. Discover resources for tracing your influenza victims through newspapers, government records, medical journals, hospital registers and more.

Tina Beard, owner of Tamarack Genealogy, lectures on military research, genealogical methodology and archival preservation at national, state and local conferences. She is a governing board member of the Oswego Heritage Association, Northern Illinois Historical League and Illinois State Historical Records Advisory board. Tina volunteers her time with several local historical and genealogical societies scanning and indexing historic records.

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.

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Handout #5 – SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY NEXT GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON MARCH 12, 2019

Our next genealogy program will take place on Tuesday evening, March 12, 2019.

We will have another “break-out” session for our gathering on March 12, 2019. 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 tablet 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 12, 2019.

Doors will open at approximately 7 p.m. so you can pick-up handouts, review books and journals, and network with other participants. Tony Kierna will start the program at 7:30 p.m. with introductions of new participants and a brief review of handouts and genealogical matters.

For further information, contact Tony Kierna at 847-923-3390.

You may visit the library’s web page at:

www.SchaumburgLibrary.org

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

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

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Handout #6 – WHAT'S COMING FROM FAMILYSEARCH IN 2019

The following was found at Dick Eastman's Blog at www.eogn.com dated January 7, 2019.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [January 7, 2019](#) · [Online Sites](#) · [12 Comments](#)

The following announcement was written by FamilySearch:

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH (7 January 2019), The popular, free genealogy website, FamilySearch.org, announced its 2019 plans to enhance its record search and Family Tree search capabilities and introduce new interactive discovery experiences.

FamilySearch is a global leader in the growing Family History market segment, serving 12 million users worldwide.



In addition to over 300 million additional historical records and images for family history discoveries, look for the following new offerings in 2019.

1. Online Interactive Discovery Experiences

For the first time, fun discovery experiences that have been available only at life-sized, interactive kiosks in select FamilySearch venues will also be available on FamilySearch.org in 2019. Making these three [discovery experiences](#) available online will expand the reach of the activities to more patrons globally.

- **All about Me**

Have you ever wondered about the origin and meaning of your name or what events happened in the year you were born? The *All about Me* experience will allow you to discover these fun things about yourself and also about your ancestors.

- **Picture My Heritage**

This simple and fun experience lets you insert yourself digitally into traditional clothing related to your heritage. On *Picture My Heritage*, you can save your custom photos or share them with friends and family.

- **Record My Story**

Priceless stories and memories from you or family members can be recorded on *Record My Story* and added—by text or audio—to [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) or downloaded to another source.

2. Family Tree and Friends, Associates, and Neighbor (FAN) Relationships

The free FamilySearch [Family Tree](#) will give users the ability to record other relationships to an ancestor beyond immediate family members, when applicable, such as friends, associates, and neighbors (FAN). This function will aid research by allowing users to record information about other people living in an ancestor's household as noted in a historical record, such as boarders or staff.

FamilySearch will continue to develop site experiences that enable families to connect with their ancestral homelands near and far. [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) will also provide more help throughout the site to make it easier for visitors to accomplish key tasks in a few simple steps.

3. Updated Find Capability

The FamilySearch Family Tree search capacity will be significantly updated to provide faster and better results. Another innovation will allow search engines such as Google to present names and limited facts from the Family Tree to online search queries without the searcher being signed into [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org). This feature will enable millions of people searching for their ancestors online to discover the vast, free services FamilySearch offers them.

4. Memories

Millions of people use [FamilySearch Memories](#) to record, preserve, and share their family photos, historical documents, and stories. In 2019, users will be able to record audio remembrances related to a photo they have uploaded. Memories will also give users the capability to organize items in an album according to their interests or needs.

5. RootsTech London 2019

The first international version of the highly successful RootsTech family history conference will be held in London on October 24–26, 2019, at the ExCel London Convention Center.

The [RootsTech London 2019](#) convention will not replace the [annual conference in Salt Lake City](#) (held on February 27–March 2, 2019) but will be an additional RootsTech event. Registration for RootsTech



London opens in February 2019.

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About FamilySearch

FamilySearch International is the largest genealogy organization in the world. FamilySearch is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Millions of people use FamilySearch records, resources, and services to learn more about their family history. To help in this great pursuit, FamilySearch and its predecessors have been actively gathering, preserving, and sharing genealogical records worldwide for over 100 years. Patrons may access FamilySearch services and resources free online at FamilySearch.org or through over 5,000 family history centers in 129 countries, including the main Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Comments by Tony Kierna

At this time of the year organizations like to reflect upon accomplishments they made for the previous year as well as state their goals for the upcoming year. FamilySearch is no different. Thus, we have a list of items they are working on that are targeted to take effect in 2019.

Many of us think that a goal should always be to add even more records to the FamilySearch databases. I think that is a given and FamilySearch has not identified that as a specific goal for 2019. However, I do see a goal somewhat related to databases, not by added volume of records but rather by providing better results based on your search criteria from within your Family Tree searching. One part of the above description seems rather expansive in becoming aware of what lies within the Family Tree data when using a Google search and you are not logged into FamilySearch:

"Another innovation will allow search engines such as Google to present names and limited facts from the Family Tree to online search queries without the searcher being signed into FamilySearch.org. This feature will enable millions of people searching for their ancestors online to discover the vast, free services FamilySearch offers them."

Seeing results in Google about data existing in FamilySearch on names you are researching would sure capture my attention! That goal for FamilySearch for 2019 sure looks like a winner to me.

Another very nice goal for 2019 for FamilySearch is the ability to allow voice recordings to be posted with various photos you have posted in the Memories section of FamilySearch. A photo without a story can often be viewed as meaningless. Researchers already have plenty of unknown photos that sit collecting dust. Having an ability to describe a photo just opens up that many more possibilities of discoveries. My only negative thought is that an audio file is not something that can be searched for content inclusion. Thus, if you make an audio recording including the names of the individual in the photo I do not see or understand how that could

be discovered by searching with Memories. Still a nice capability to be able to see a photo that you know may already be related to your research and then be able to hear a nice description of the Who, What, When, Why etc. of the photo and the people in the photo.

Finally, RootsTech in the US has been an incredible success by FamilySearch through the years drawing thousands of people in person and thousands more via streaming programs. Expanding to England just sounds like FamilySearch that RootsTech itself is not going to disappear and expanding it to an audience in England that will support it seems like a logical step.

So let's see at the beginning of 2020 if FamilySearch was able to deliver on their goals for 2019.

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Handout #7 – BILL FILED IN TEXAS TO PLACE 125 YEAR EMBARGO ON BIRTH RECORDS

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated January 10, 2019.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [January 10, 2019](#) · [Legal Affairs](#) · [14 Comments](#)

If passed, this will be a major obstacle to researching Texas ancestors. The following message was received from Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson of the IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee:

A bill has been filed in the Texas State Legislature that would impose a 125 year embargo period on access to birth records. Death records are not changed from their current 25 year embargo. Existing law regarding indexes whether a general or summary index is not being proposed to be amended from current statute. To read the bill see: <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/86R/billtext/pdf/HB007031.pdf>.

The bill was filed on January 9, 2019 and not yet assigned to a committee. <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=86R&Bill=HB703>.

Thank you to Brooke Schreier Ganz, president and founder, [Reclaim the Records](#) for sharing the information on the bill filing with us.

Comments by Tony Kierna

Please take note of the above. Not from the perspective that it is a sure thing, but rather from the trend that is developing on privacy and limiting more and more access to data we would like to access for our research. The article suggests a Texas legislator wants to limit access to birth records by suggesting you cannot access birth records unless they are 125 years or more from the event date. As a comparison, our own access to Cook County Birth records requires that they must be at least 75 years from the event date. Think again, Texas wants to limit access to at least 125 years or older. Even in Cook County as researchers we feel 75 years is an eternity. Now imagine it being 125 years.

The trend in general is for more and more privacy. How many times do we hear about Facebook or other organizations that are using our data that we did not even know they had, probably because we did not read the Privacy statement they publish. Maybe we don't like what we read but we figure the benefit overall for us to use Facebook is more than the negatives on privacy concerns.

We can access United States census records 72 years after they were obtained. What if the federal government wants to raise that access to 125 years? I do not think it is out of the realm of possibility that such suggested limitations are going to be proposed more and more.

The European Union has strengthened privacy concerns to the point that many interactions with groups that provided information on individuals had to be modified in order to meet all of the new rules and guidelines for what can be shared or not.

In the United States we are hearing of the possible regulation of such entities as Google and Facebook on data they can obtain and use with the users expressed permission.

What should a researcher do? Whenever possible capture the material you are finding in your research immediately when you can download images. Yes, it is available today, but tomorrow with potentially new guidelines, it will not be accessible. Operate on the premise that you cannot assume you can return to a site and download what you need at a future date! Also, just keep your eyes and ears open to hear about legislative proposals that could in fact limit access to the research material you will need. Express your concerns to your legislators about such possible future developments.

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Handout #8 – FAMILYSEARCH'S TOP RECORD COLLECTIONS OF 2018

The following was found in Dick Eastman's Online Blog at www.eogn.com dated January 8, 2019.

[Dick Eastman](#) · [January 8, 2019](#) · [Online Sites](#) · [No Comments](#)

The following announcement was written by FamilySearch:

SALT LAKE CITY, UT (8 January 2019), In 2018, FamilySearch added hundreds of millions of searchable free images and indexes of historical records from all around the world. The records came from locations such as **Germany, Sweden, France, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Mexico**, and the **United States**. We thought we'd summarize those countries with the largest volume of new records and images for you and provide convenient links to help you quickly discover a few new ancestors. [FamilySearch](#) now has over 8 billion free names and record images.

Country	Records and Images
Australia	1,618,183
Brazil	1,591,900
England	9,948,263
France	12,010,885
Germany	85,357,860
Ireland	7,868,337
Italy	7,541,275
Mexico	63,530,408
Netherlands	18,018,230
Russia	1,032,510
South Africa	1,029,108
Sweden	45,910,699
United Kingdom	3,264,935
United States– Alabama	4,115,533
United States– California	6,055,650
United States Census	11,779,223
United States– Georgia	1,224,740
United States– Illinois	1,041,748
United States– Kansas	1,609,914
United States– Kentucky	1,561,926
United States– Michigan	1,570,493
United States– Native American Census Rolls	1,974,407
United States– New York	4,194,464
United States– New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1924	3,243,589

United States– New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1891 (Castle Garden)	428,944
United States– New York, New York Passenger and Crew Lists, 1909, 1925-1957	5,192,064
United States– North Carolina	7,023,969
United States– Ohio	1,077,187
United States– Oklahoma	5,848,398
United States– Pennsylvania	1,236,748
United States– Vermont	2,401,944
United States– Veteran’s Administration	3,099,585
United States– Virginia	6,236,808
United States– West Virginia	1,158,909

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About FamilySearch

FamilySearch International is the largest genealogy organization in the world. FamilySearch is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Millions of people use FamilySearch records, resources, and services to learn more about their family history. To help in this great pursuit, FamilySearch and its predecessors have been actively gathering, preserving, and sharing genealogical records worldwide for over 100 years. Patrons may access FamilySearch services and resources free online at FamilySearch.org or through over 5,000 family history centers in 129 countries, including the main Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Comments by Tony Kierna

This article reflects another one about end of year statistics/beginning of year statistics from large organizations reflecting on their accomplishments. What does this mean for you? If you have been less than active as a researcher over the last few years, it behooves you to be aware of such large additions of records to geographic areas of interest to you. Remember, these records are FREE to you just requiring you to have a Username and Password to access FamilySearch.

Please note that the article indicates these are NEW records added to the identified category. First thing that caught my eye was the addition of about 1 million records added for Illinois. For Illinois researchers it is worth looking to see if any additional records may directly connect to your own research.

Also note that if you are a researcher that also has an interest in England, France, Germany, Mexico, Netherlands or Sweden that significant amounts of records were also added to the records of these countries in 2018.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to add more material to your research if you have not been that active lately. **Visiting sites to check on added materials to databases previously accessed is something you need to put in your calendar as a "reminder" at least yearly.** Looks like this is that reminder for this year to check out the added records that are now in many of the FamilySearch databases.

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Handout #9 – “FROZEN: COPING WITH RESEARCH PARALYSIS”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the January/February 2019, Volume 4, Number 6 issue of Your Genealogy Today.

I thought that a good article in this issue is one titled “Frozen: Coping with Research Paralysis”. The author of the article is Sue Lisk.

Are you stuck with some aspect of your research? Too many discoveries?? Too many facts?? What do you do with all of this?? What do you do with all of this discovered stuff? How do I make sense of what I have and what more do I need for the next phases of research?

We all get into these moments when we are overwhelmed or not motivated or are just losing interest because we actually have to work and work hard with our discoveries.

The author has identified 5 suggestions to turn to in order to break through your “paralysis”.

Consider the following:

- **Set Modest Goals** – sometimes you want to solve every major aspect of a family or an individual that has been challenging you in your research. Her suggestion is to identify and gauge your success in small increments. Each small increment of discovery advances to your ultimate goal of solving a family research problem or an individual research problem.
- **Seek Out Family Lore** – drop the research efforts from books, the internet and all other means where you think you will discover the elusive answer you seek. Take the time to ask for help from all of your known family members or newly discovered cousins. If you have much older siblings ask them about an ancestor they may know much more about simply because they were old enough at the time to remember things about someone for whom you were too young. Newly discovered cousins can easily share with you stories of individuals from their line of connection.
- **Change Tacks** – break with the old research effort on someone for whom you are not making progress. Start an entire new research effort on a line or an individual you have not previously tackled before. How about focusing on yourself and filling in the blanks on your recent events and accomplishments in life to make it easier for the next generation that picks up your research. They would be happy campers to see how much they will not have to research on you! Do not think you are abandoning your research of a particular problem if you switch to something else. Oftentimes, more information becomes available

over time on that person so that when you return to research them you may quickly discover new facts.

- **Learn a New Skill** - maybe you have never been good at deciphering old handwriting. Here is your chance to learn a new skill and get you through the funk of your research paralysis. Pick your topic of things you would like to learn now. How about land records? Take a field trip to a county office by you to see how they operate and how you can search through their material. It does not have to be for anyone in particular but you will actually gain confidence in how the process works so that the next individual you have that needs research on land records you will know how. Catch up on learning from online tutorials of all kinds. Already a subscriber to Ancestry.com then check out their YouTube Channel and look through tons of online tutorials to help you learn new research skills or make you better on some of the research skills you already have.
- **Consult Others** – do not forget to ask for help form other researchers you know regardless if they are family or not. Maybe someone you admire as a researcher simply has a different way of looking at the same problem you have but you realize their method works. Sometimes you need a good listener to hear your own problem. Maybe as you are speaking your own words come up with a solution that had previously not risen to the surface.

The author sums up her approach to breaking through your research paralysis in one great paragraph:

“By patiently reviewing your expectations, altering your approaches, increasing your genealogical know-how, and communicating with relatives and other family historians, you will soon be back to researching with gusto.”

Some pretty goods words of wisdom in this article if you find yourself stuck with your research!

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Handout #10 – “CONTOURS IN THE CLOUDS”

The following review and comments were created by me, Tony Kierna, based on my having read an article that was seen in the January/February 2019, Volume 4, Number 6 issue of Your Genealogy Today.

I thought that another interesting article in this issue was one titled “Contours in the Clouds”. The author notes that the article can help you better understand the individuals that you find on family trees. Most of the time we are lucky to have documents containing the names of our ancestors. There is not a whole lot of information in these documents to help you know who your ancestor really was. Maybe for recent ancestors of the last 40 to 60 years, we may have heard stories about things they did and who they were. Again, these are just stories, often times stories to embellish the appearance of an ancestor.

The author provided five categories of how we can view any information about our ancestors to know who they really were:

- **Chance**

- The documents we see or newspaper accounts of news about an ancestor are just random moments that have been preserved by circumstances.
- No matter how hard you try certain elements of their past are basic irrecoverable.
- Over time as more is discovered on them, you will be able to distinguish the characteristics and tendencies that made them who they were.

- **Interpretation**

- Anything you discover over time will contain a particular point of view
 - A newspaper article tends to contain the biases of the journalist that put the article together.
 - A letter that references one of your ancestors may subtly express the opinions of the writer.
- You will have to be skeptical about the written word as if it were a fact when biases may have been included by the writer.
- Official documents from the past frequently reveal a society’s outlook on race, gender and economic status.
- You can often find more for prominent individuals that were typically male, white and well off rather than for others.
- You have to dig deeper for the information on women, minorities and the poor.

- **Perspective**

- Do not discount that your own personality, expectations, desires, opinions and mood will color what you discover.
 - Your relatives may not be all what you expected when you meet them through the various genealogical sources of information that contain the information.
- A person with an occupation that disappoints you may have had a wonderful personality that you may never be able to discover.
- Maybe a wealthy ancestor had a heart of gold to share his good tidings.
- Sometimes you have to give your ancestor the benefit of the doubt if your research appears to show them as disappointing to you.
- Be conscious of your own prejudices when analyzing the discoveries about your ancestors.

• **Movement**

- Maybe you see your relatives in one location through records of discovery and then not find any records for a while only to then see them in a new location.
 - There could be countless reasons that evolved to initiate the move that are long lost through time.
 - These moves could also be temporary and not as permanent as the records may show.
 - An ancestor's "new" occupation may simply be one you had not yet discovered.
 - Maybe you discover many occupations that may occurred to help make ends meet.
 - Our ancestors were truly proficient at many different things.
- Studying the historical background of an area or a cultural group may prove invaluable in helping you solve certain mysteries.

• **Change**

- With all of the activities taking place over time with our ancestors you may only be able to create an "outline" of who they really were.
- Sometimes new discoveries over time about an ancestor may add another discovery layer as to who that person was.

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